STEUBENVILLE, Ohio - A longtime employee of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. died Monday at the company's North Plant after being hit by a train in the rail yard. Kenneth Cesaro of Wintersville was a conductor on the trains that carried material among the steel plants. He had been with the company for 33 years.

Company spokesman James Kosowski said the accident happened shortly after noon while Cesaro, 54, was pulling a lever beside a track to change an oncoming train's direction. The company and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating the incident.

Cesaro was the part-time chief of police for the village of Hopedale for at least seven years, worked part-time as a sergeant with the Cross Creek Township Police Department for six years and was an auxiliary member of the Wintersville Police Department from 1974 until he retired in 1998, according to officials.

A conductor was killed at the North Plant in 1992 when a railroad car being moved by remote control hit him. Another man died in 1989 when he was crushed between an engine and a car, according to OSHA reports.
KENNETH A. CESARO, age 55, of Wintersville, lost his life in an industrial accident at Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel on January 11, 2005.

He was born June 13, 1949 in Morgantown, WV, a son of Arnold & Florence Cesaro of Wintersville.

He graduated from Wintersville High School in 1967 and served two years in the Army in Korea. He was a member of Wintersville F.O.P. Lodge : American Legion Post 587 : Pilgrim Lodge 691 F&AM. He was a Wintersville police officer for 25 years, was currently Chief of Police at Hopedale for the past seven years and he also served as a Sergeant with the Cross Creek Township Police for five years. He worked at Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel for 33 years and was currently a conductor on the railroad.

He was preceded in death by an infant son and infant daughter.

Surviving in addition to his parents are his fiancee Debbie Smith ; son, Steve ( Allison ) Cesaro and grandsons, Corey & Dominic Cesaro, all of Columbus ; step-daughter, Melissa Smith ; brothers, David ( Kathy ) Cesaro of Wintersville : Paul Cesaro also of Wintersville ; niece, Samantha Cesaro of Bloomingdale ; step-granddaughter, Brittany Hart of Columbus.


Burial at Union Cemetery, Steubenville, Ohio.