A man was killed Monday morning in Hahira, when a train struck a truck that was on the tracks, about 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The driver of the dump truck failed to yield to the train and entered into the path of the Norfolk Southern train.

The Georgia State Patrol identified the driver as Dexter Brown, 48, of Barnwell, S.C.

The front of the train struck the passenger’s side of the dump truck, ejecting Brown, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Troopers said that Brown was driving the C&S Rail Services truck on Lawson Street.

The Georgia State Patrol is investigating the incident.

Community members are speaking out after a tragic train crash.

LaShonda Jordan came to work this morning expecting nothing but an ordinary day.

"I know someone's not coming home to their family tonight," explained Jordan.

That was until she heard an unmistakable sound.

"We heard a dragging sound, we're used to hearing the trains, you know working here in downtown, right by the train tracks and it just didn't sound normal," said," said Jordan.

"It was chaos, it looked like chaos when we walked up to the scene, my heart hurt instantly and it was hard for me to even walk up on the scene."
This serves as a reminder to be more cautious and aware of your surroundings, said Jordan.

"I thought about my husband, I thought about my kids. I thought about all the people in this community who are affected," said Jordan.

"Somebody's son, somebody's father is not making it home tonight from a decision that could have been avoided by being more aware of their surroundings."

GSP Sergeant W-T Tabb stated that community members need to stop, look, and listen.

"There's no telling how many people cross these railroad tracks and the light have been flashing and there's been no train," explained Tabb.

"It could be a faulty activation of the railroad systems, always stop, always look, pay attention, they have these signs and lights for a reason out here."


By: Noelani Mathews | WCTV Eyewitness News
February 6, 2018

HAHIRA, Ga. (WCTV) -- Hearts are heavy across the town of Hahira.

Many residents say they witnessed the aftermath of a fatal train accident on West Lawson Street. Residents reported hearing the collision, and then saw a mangled work truck.

It was a sight no resident could prepare for, or in Karen and Rugh Boggs case, "It shook the house. It was a big boom."

The Boggs were the closest residents to the crash. Their home of more than 40 years is located just yards away from the crash site.
"I looked out early this morning and there was a lot of workers that came out for the railroad because they're putting new ties on the track," says Karen.

After the loud boom, she looked out her window to see the mangled vehicle.

"It was absolutely terrible," says Karen.

Investigators combed through debris as the train sat at a standstill for more than five hours.

"We have a lot of people who said they heard the contact in the crash, but at this time, it's more in depth when there's a railroad company involved in it," says Tracy Tabb with the Georgia State Patrol. "There's a lot more detail on their end as well as ours."

Responders at the scene say this type of accident isn't their first, but residents, like the Boggs, hope it's the last.

"After it was over, I went to the guys and told them I was sorry for their loss," says Karen.

Georgia State Patrol and other agencies, such as C&S Rail Services and Georgia's Department of Transportation, say they'll continue to investigate the crash.

By: WCTV Eyewitness News
February 5, 2018

HAHIRA, Ga. (WCTV) -- The Georgia State Patrol says a man has died after his vehicle was hit by a train in Lowndes County.

Troopers say the crash happened around 8:35 a.m. Monday on Lawson Street in downtown Hahira.

GSP says a driver in a C&S Rail Services truck failed to yield for an oncoming freight train and was hit.

Authorities have identified the victim as 48-year-old Dexter Brown, of Barnwell, South Carolina. We've learned Brown was an employee of C&S Rail Services.

We've also learned that the train involved in the crash was owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway company.

Crews worked to move the train from the tracks.


Hahira community helping victim's family
By: Noelani Mathews | WCTV Eyewitness News
February 13, 2018

Posted: Tue 10:08 PM, Feb 13, 2018
HAHIRA, Ga. (WCTV) -- On Tuesday, the funeral for 48-year-old Dexter Brown, who died in last week’s collision between a truck and a train at a railroad crossing, was held in his hometown of Barnwell, South Carolina.

The Hahira is still reeling from the crash, and on Tuesday, began to honor the father of seven with a memorial next to the tracks.

Complete strangers to Brown are now looking for ways to help.

"We told the family we didn't want them to always remember Hahira as the place where daddy died, but rather where a community came together to support them," said Tim Coombs, a Hahira resident.

Coombs has been in contact with Brown's sister, who says she's overwhelmed with the love and support that the family is receiving.

The community is working on a fundraiser to help Brown's children.