Family, friends remember CSX employee killed in Chattanooga train accident
By: WATE 6 On Your Side staff
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Family and friends now remembering the life of a CSX employee killed in a train accident over the weekend in Chattanooga.

Allen Lowe, from northeast Tennessee, was struck and killed by a train while working in the rail yard. He worked for the company for 24 years before the incident.

His friends and family devastated by this sudden tragedy.

"Wow, I feel so lucky to have known him," said Kelly Ball. "He was able to light up a room when he came in. He gave 24 years of his life to CSX and I just truly hope that they make sure that this doesn't happen again."

Lowe was a father of two, his son is set to graduate from high school this year.

CSX says the investigation into what happened is ongoing.
Jonesborough native killed in CSX rail yard facility in Chattanooga

by Bliss Zechman / WTVCTuesday, April 16th 2019

A devoted railroad worker is killed over the weekend after being hit by a train while on the job.
A longtime friend says Allen Lowe's larger-than-life personality could make anyone laugh.
Now he leaves two kids behind, just missing his only son's high school graduation.
Lowe was killed at the CSX Wauhatchie Rail Yard in Chattanooga on Saturday.
Just two days after the tragic incident, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Railroad Administration both have crews investigating
But those who knew him best are also searching for answers.
"We were just in disbelief, completely shocked. you know hoping that it wasn't true," says Kelly Ball. She has called Lowe her friend for the better part of the last decade.
She and her husband spoke with him, just hours before he was killed.
Allen planned to head to Kingsport, Tennessee to visit the couple and his children after his shift.
"If you knew Allen, you would remember him. He had the biggest heart of anyone in the world and if anybody ever needed anything he was there to help them," said Ball.
Ball says Allen was a big guy, fit for working on rail yard, with the heart to match.
She says his life was cut short and she wants to know why.
"I was really disturbed to learn that this wasn't just an isolated incident. That there are lots of accidents at CSX and fatal ones at that," said Ball.
Workplace accidents claimed the lives of more than a dozen railroad workers last year, according to Federal Railroad Administration records. Several of those killed worked at CSX.
"Working on the tracks is very dangerous. The size of the equipment, you can end up with events like these happening," said Jim Hall, former NTSB chairman.

Hall says his organization prioritized workplace safety and frequently investigated rail yard accidents.

"There's been progress made, but each event reminds us to maintain the focus and make sure that the railroad is walking the walk as well as the employees and having a safe workplace for everyone," said Hall.

CSX declined our request for an interview, but in a statement said the investigation is ongoing.

NTSB officials say the investigation, into Allen's death, could take anywhere from 12-18 months. Those closest to Allen hope answers surface sooner, so that other's won't meet the same fate as their friend.

"We can't afford to lose good people like Allen Lowe, because he was true gem and we are all just really mourning his loss," said Ball.

No official funeral arrangements for Allen are set up, but his friends say they will likely take place later this week in Allen’s hometown of Jonesborough, Tennessee.