Worker hit by rail car, killed in Seattle's Industrial District

by KOMO News Staff Monday, November 18th 2019

SEATTLE - A worker has died after he was struck by a rail car Monday morning in Seattle's Industrial District, fire officials said.

Police and medics responded to the scene, in the 5400 block of West Marginal Way SW, at around 9:10 a.m. after receiving reports of a pedestrian being struck by a train.

The victim was found with severe injuries. Medics and workers at the scene attempted life-saving efforts but the man died of his injuries.

“I saw the safety gentleman walking out here with his lit brim and that’s a real unusual sight to see,” said Tom Wise, who owns the property across the street from the incident.

The victim was a Lafarge Canada worker, but no other information was immediately available about him.

Lafarge's Western Canadian office released the following statement:

Lafarge Canada has confirmed the death of an employee at our Seattle cement plant.

This is a very difficult and tragic incident, and we are extremely concerned about the impact to this individual’s family and friends. Our thoughts are with our colleague’s friends and family, and we are providing the support of our employee assistance program to help our co-workers cope with this loss.

Lafarge is cooperating fully in the investigation. We are unable to comment further at this time.

The circumstances leading up to the accident are under investigation. The rail car, which was believed to be controlled remotely, was reportedly moving at low speed when the worker was hit.

According to Wise, these types of rail cars are never moving at a fast pace.

“As fast as they go is maybe about five miles an hour,” Wise said.

The Seattle Police Department is handling the incident, according to L&I.

UPDATE: Worker killed by rail car at West Marginal Way SW plant

NOVEMBER 18, 2019 10:12 AM

10:12 AM: Seattle Fire says a person has been hit and killed by a rail car in the 5400 block of West Marginal Way SW. Police are investigating. We’re on the way to find out more.

10:44 AM: The SFD log address for the call is the Lafarge plant; its gates are closed and the remaining responders are all on the property beyond that, so we can’t find out anything on site.

10:53 AM: SPD describes the incident as an “industrial accident involving a worker and rail car.”

ADDED TUESDAY MORNING: Lafarge sent this statement:
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Worker Killed in Rail Car Accident on West Marginal Way [Seattle, WA]
Lafarge Canada Worker Dies in Seattle Rail Car Accident

SEATTLE, WA (November 21, 2019) — A worker died in a rail car accident on West Marginal Way in Seattle’s Industrial District Monday morning.

Fire officials said the incident occurred at about 9:10 a.m. A rail car fatally struck the worker at 5400 West Marginal Way southwest.

Emergency responders found the victim with severe injuries when they arrived. They attempted life-saving efforts, but the man succumbed to his injuries.

The authorities said the victim was a Lafarge Canada worker. However, no other information was immediately available about him.

The rail car was believed to be controlled remotely. Reports indicated that it was moving at low speed when it hit the worker.

The circumstances leading up to the accident are under investigation by the Seattle Police Department.

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of the victim. Our thoughts are with them during this very difficult time.