2nd Canadian National Railway worker dies in B.C.

Teamsters Canada says the death happened Monday, but CN not releasing cause

A Canadian National Railway conductor was fatally injured while working just outside of a rail yard in Prince Rupert, according to the union representing rail industry workers in B.C.

According to a statement from Teamsters Canada, the worker was a man in his 30s who had been with the company since 2018.

The union identified the man as a CN conductor, though his name is not being released.

"I would like to extend our deepest condolences to our fallen brother's loved ones and colleagues," said the national president of Teamsters Canada François Laporte.

CN also emailed a statement confirming that a fatal "incident" happened on CN property involving a CN employee in Port Edward on Monday. Port Edward is a community about 20 kilometres south of Prince Rupert, B.C.

"We want to offer our sincere condolences to the employee's family and community in these tragic times," the CN spokesperson said.

The union confirmed Monday's death is the second CN conductor fatality relating to "switching operations" so far this month.

On June 1, RCMP were called to investigate a workplace incident that led to the death of a CN worker at the Thornton rail yard.

The Transportation Safety Board and the BC Coroners Service were also called to investigate.

"Incidents like these are never acceptable. Every accident, every fatality is preventable," said Laporte.
UPDATE: CN conductor who died on job is identified

Port Edward death is second in B.C in 15 days, Teamsters Union said

K-J MILLARJun. 16, 2020 9:20 a.m. - Updated: June 22, 2020

Daniel Paulusse 37, has been identified as the CN conductor who died on the job in Port Edward on June 15. He was the second British Columbia CN railroader to die in a period of 15 days completing a “switching operation.” He is seen here with his daughter Jazmyne. (Photo supplied by Denise Savoie)

A CN Rail employee who died on the job June 15, in Port Edward has been identified as Daniel Paulusse, 37. The train conductor had only recently been posted in the Prince Rupert area and was based in Smithers.

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference (TCRC), the largest rail union in the country, said Paulusse had been with CN since 2018.

“This is the second CN conductor to die on the job this month in B.C. Another conductor died on June 1 in Surrey,” Teamsters said.

“Both workers were performing “switching operations,” a term that refers to activities like making up and marshalling trains, storing cars, serving industries within rail terminals, and other related activities.

“On behalf of Canada’s over 125,000 Teamster members, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to our fallen brother’s loved ones and colleagues,” Francois Laporte, national
president of Teamsters Canada said. “Incidents like these are never acceptable. Every accident, every fatality is preventable.”

According to Teamsters a total of twelve railroaders have died on the job in the past two and a half years.

Long-time friend of Paulusse, Alex Zellner, said that his buddy was not long on the job in Prince Rupert and was working in the yard in a completely different position to his regular job as a conductor.

“This shouldn’t have happened...Most times in most professions (accidents) are preventable. Clearly there are things that need to change. Probably training is one of them…” Zellner said.

Denise Savoie, Paulusse’s mom, said the amount of the deaths are not OK and something needs to be done. She said information has not been forthcoming about the incident and no-one is getting any answers.

“I am just so angry. This didn’t need to happen. It’s not just the last two (employee deaths), there have been others before. Why didn’t they take precautions or change things ... I know my son said it was dangerous – even the driving part. It’s all dangerous, but he wouldn’t go into specifics with me,” Savoie said.

“This industry has suffered far too many preventable tragedies. We need to find new ways to focus on safety. Our union continues to work with employers, the federal government and other stakeholders in hopes of preventing future accidents and ultimately saving lives,” Lyndon Isaak president of the TCRC said.

“In the meantime, we remind all our members to stay vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times while at work,” Isaak added.

The Transportation Safety Board is aware of the accident.

“At this time we are assessing the event and gathering information,” Alexandre Fournier, TSB media relations specialist said on June 16.

RCMP are assisting in the workplace fatality that occurred and can confirm there is no criminality suspected. No further information is had at this time, Cpl. Madonna Saunderson RCMP media relations said.
CN conductor killed in Prince Rupert

A Canadian National Rail conductor was killed Monday afternoon while working just outside of a rail yard in Prince Rupert, a union representing rail workers said.

Teamsters Canada said he was "fatally injured" while performing “switching operations” - essentially making up and marshalling trains and storing cars.

His name was not released but he had been working for CN since 2018, the union said.

He was the second CN Rail conductor to die on the job this month, the union noted. The other death occurred in Surrey on June 1 also while performing switching operations.

The Transportation Safety Board said it is looking into both incidents.

A total of twelve railroaders have died on the job in the past 2 1/2 years, the union said.

“This industry has suffered far too many preventable tragedies. We need to find new ways to focus on safety. Our union continues to work with employers, the federal government and other stakeholders in hopes of preventing future accidents and ultimately saving lives,” said Teamsters Canada Rail Conference president Lyndon Isaak. “In the meantime, we remind all our members to stay vigilant and aware of their surroundings at all times while at work.”

CN Rail said the incident occurred on company property in Port Edward, just south of Prince Rupert.

"We want to offer our sincere condolences to the employee’s family and community in these tragic times," a company spokesperson said.
Online fundraiser aims to raise money for daughter of CN Railway worker who died on the job

Alyse Kotyk  Reporter, CTVNewsVancouver.ca

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VANCOUVER -- In the wake of another workplace fatality at a Canadian National Railway site in B.C., friends of the victim have launched an online fundraising campaign to raise money for his daughter.

On Monday, 37-year-old CN Railway worker Daniel Paulusse died on the job near Prince Rupert, a union representing railway workers confirmed.

"Incidents like these are never acceptable. Every accident, every fatality is preventable," Teamsters Canada said in a statement.

A message on the fundraising page, which was started by a close friend, says Paulusse had a 14-year-old daughter "who he loved more than anything."

"Dan had a way about him of making everything into a joke and loved making people laugh," the fundraising page says.

The fundraising page says all the money will go to his daughter.

RCMP confirmed Tuesday it was investigating a fatal workplace incident and the Transportation Safety Board said it was aware of the incident and was "assessing the event and gathering information."

This is the second workplace incident this month that led to a death while a CN Railway employee was performing "switching operations."
Switching operations consist of activities like marshalling trains or storing cars, Teamsters Canada explained.

In the early hours of June 1, an incident killed 31-year-old Jasvinder Riar at the Thornton Yard in Surrey.

That incident is under investigation by Surrey RCMP, WorkSafeBC, Technical Safety BC and the BC Coroner Service. A member of Riar’s family says they still haven’t been told how he died.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-dan-paulusse-family?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR34wlnJk0jlxr1I-BjM0LCtHwYDc61IoYaoocDcBC37fPevTB1iWY1wLtY