

SUMMARY FOR FE-11-06
SELECTED AND POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

SELECTED FACTORS

Railroad: Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP)

Location: Atwater, California

Region: 7

Month: August

Date: Aug. 16, 2006

Time: 5:43 p.m., PST

Data for Fatally Injured Employee(s)

Maintenance of Way (MOW) Supervisor

47 years old

21 years of service

Last rules training: July 5, 2006

Last safety training: July 5, 2006

Last physical: June 20, 2006

Data for All Employees (Craft, Positions, Activity)

Craft: MOW

Positions:

MOW Supervisor

MOW Crew

Rental Truck Driver (not affiliated with the railroad)

Activity

Preparing to transport a bundle of rail ties

EVENT

An MOW Supervisor was fatally injured when struck
by a rental truck while preparing to transport a bundle of rail ties.

SUMMARY FOR FE-11-06 CONTINUED**POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS****PCF No. 1**

The MOW Supervisor was walking along the driver's side of his truck, where there was close or no clearance regarding passing highway vehicles.

PCF No. 2

The Rental Truck Driver was driving at very high speed, which prevented him from stopping or maneuvering to avoid hitting the railroad employee.

REPORT: FE-11-2006

RAILROAD: Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP)

LOCATION: Atwater, California

DATE & TIME: Aug. 16, 2006; 5:43 p.m., PST

EVENT¹: A Maintenance of Way (MOW) Supervisor was fatally injured when struck by a highway vehicle while preparing to move his dump truck to a better location for transporting a bundle of railroad ties.

EMPLOYEE:

Craft:	MOW
Occupation:	MOW Supervisor
Age:	47
Length of Service:	21 years
Last Rules Training:	July 5, 2006
Last Safety Training:	July 5, 2006
Last Physical:	June 20, 2006

CIRCUMSTANCES PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT

Shortly before the incident, a Maintenance of Way (MOW) Supervisor, employed by UP, parked his company-owned dump truck on the right shoulder of Highway 99 near Atwater, California, at a point adjacent to the UP right-of-way (MP 146.2). His Crew was at this location, preparing to move a bundle of railroad ties. While planning the task, the Crew decided to use the front-end loader to load the bundle of ties into the dump truck; however, due to the terrain, they concurred it would be necessary to move the dump truck closer to the location where the ties were located. Therefore, the Supervisor left the Crew and walked towards the vehicle to relocate the dump truck to a point closer to the bundle of ties.

THE ACCIDENT

After walking to the rear of his truck, the Supervisor walked around the left rear fender (driver's side) and proceeded southward next to the vehicle, along the shoulder of the highway, towards the driver's door. As he walked towards his truck door, a rental truck, moving southward in the right lane of Highway 99 at a high rate of speed, struck him and the left front fender of his truck.

¹ "Event" is defined as "occurrence that immediately precedes and directly results in the fatality." Possible contributing factors are identified in the following report and attached summary.

After striking the victim and the vehicle, the rental truck Driver proceeded south and briefly stopped some distance away. He then sped off as the Crew attempted to get the license plate number of the vehicle. Law enforcement authorities subsequently apprehended the Driver.

POST-ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Emergency personnel from the Merced County Medical Group were summoned, and the paramedics attempted emergency resuscitation. However, the Supervisor expired and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The cause of death was multiple traumatic injuries incurred when struck by a motor vehicle. FRA's investigation comprised interviews with the MOW Crew and review of the police report.