

SUMMARY FOR FE-16-06
SELECTED AND POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

SELECTED FACTORS

Railroad: Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Rail Corporation (NIRC)
(Metra, transit agency for NIRC)

Location: Harvey, Illinois

Region: 4

Month: September

Date: Sept. 27, 2006

Time: 9:38 a.m., EST

Data for Fatally Injured Employee(s)

Patrol Officer, Metra Police Department

43 years old

3 years, 7 months of service

Last rules training: N/A

Last safety training: N/A

Last physical: N/A

Last relevant efficiency test: N/A

Data for All Employees (Craft, Positions, Activity)

Craft: Security

Positions:

Fatally Injured Patrol Officer

Police Officer Dispatched to the Scene

Activity

Surveillance of commuter rail station
that had experienced recent criminal activity

EVENT

A Patrol Officer was fatally injured by gunshot wounds while conducting surveillance of a Metra commuter rail station where there had been recent criminal activity.

SUMMARY FOR FE-16-06 CONTINUED

POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

PCF No. 1

The Patrol Officer received multiple gunshot wounds while conducting surveillance of a commuter rail station.

REPORT: FE-16-2006

RAILROAD: Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Rail Corporation (NIRC)

LOCATION: Harvey, Illinois

DATE & TIME: Sept. 27, 2006; 9:38 p.m., EST

EVENT¹: A Patrol Officer was fatally injured by gunshot wounds while conducting surveillance of a Metra² commuter station where there had been recent criminal activity.

EMPLOYEE:

Craft:	Security
Occupation:	Patrol Officer, Metra Police Department
Age:	43 years old
Length of Service:	3 years, 7 months
Last Rules Training:	N/A
Last Safety Training:	N/A
Last Physical:	N/A
Last Relevant Efficiency Test:	N/A

CIRCUMSTANCES PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT

A Metra police officer reported for duty at 2 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2006, at Metra's Kensington Yard facility located at 123rd Street in Chicago, Illinois. The officer was assigned to conduct surveillance of the Metra 147th Street Commuter Station located in Harvey, Illinois. This surveillance was being conducted due to recent criminal activity at the station and the surrounding area.

The officer was sitting in a marked police vehicle which was parked on non-railroad property across from the commuter station parking area. The weather was partly cloudy and dry.

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.

² Metra is the transit agency for NIRC.

THE ACCIDENT

At approximately 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2006, while sitting in the police vehicle, the officer received multiple gun shot wounds to the back of the head.

POST-ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

On Sept. 27, 2006, the Harvey Police Department personnel received a phone call notifying them of an incident in an alley near 333 East 147th Place in Harvey. At approximately 9:38 p.m., the Harvey Police Department dispatched an officer to the area. While en route, the reporting officer was advised of a second call. Upon arrival at the scene, the reporting officer observed the Metra Police vehicle parked, facing in a northeasterly direction with the headlights on and the red dome light inside the vehicle activated. When he arrived at the vehicle, the reporting officer noticed a brown substance on the officer's mouth and on the bottom of his uniform shirt and a wound on the back of his head.

The reporting officer notified his superiors of the situation, then notified the Metra Police Department. Medical assistance was requested through the Harvey Police Department dispatcher. On Sept. 27, 2006, at 10:11 p.m., the officer was pronounced dead as a result of multiple gunshot wounds.