Railway Operations Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

The most common causes of train accidents include:

- 1. Negligence
- 2. Human error
- 3. Reckless pedestrians and drivers
- 4. Mechanical failure
- 5. Speedy trains
- 6. Defective tracks
- 7. Derailments
- 8. Unprotected railroad crossings
- 9. Stalled cars on the track
- 10. Suicides

STATS

- In 2019, 1246 rail accidents were reported to the TSB.
- Freight trains accounted for 33% of all trains involved in rail accidents in 2019. Three percent (47 in total) were passenger trains, with the remaining 64% comprising mainly single cars/cuts of cars, locomotives, and track units.
- The largest proportion of reported rail accidents comprised non-main-track derailments (48%). Typically, most non-main-track accidents are minor, occurring during switching operations at speeds of less than 10 mph.
- In 2019, 14% of rail accidents involved vehicles or pedestrians at rail crossings, below the 16% average of the previous 10 years.
- In 2019, 169 accidents involved dangerous goods up from 125 in 2018 and above the 10-year average of 127. Eight accidents resulted in a dangerous goods release in 2019, compared with 4 in 2018, and the 10-year average of 4.
- Rail fatalities totalled 72 in 2019, up from 57 reported last year and approximately the same as the previous 10-year average of 73. Crossing fatalities totalled 28 in 2019, up from 19 in 2018 and above the 10-year average of 22.
- A total of 64 serious injuries resulted from rail occurrences in 2019, down from 91 in 2018 but above the 10-year average of 59. Trespasser injuries totalled 17 in 2019, down from 30 last year and below the 10-year average of 20. Fifteen railway employees were seriously injured in 2019, down from 17 in 2018 but above the 10-year average of 11. Crossing accidents resulted in 31 serious injuries, down from 42 in 2018 but above the 10-year average of 27.

