

<https://fox8.com/2014/02/14/republic-steel-worker-dies-in-rail-yard-accident/>

Republic Steel Worker Dies in Rail Yard Accident

POSTED 2:30 PM, FEBRUARY 14, 2014, BY DARCIE LORENO

LORAIN, Ohio — A long-time Republic Steel worker was killed Friday in a rail yard accident at the company's Lorain plant.

According to a release from Republic Steel, it happened in the late morning hours. All production at the plant has been stopped for the day, and all employees were sent home.

The company said after the accident, it immediately began an investigation and is cooperating with local authorities and Republic Steel's own risk management to determine what happened and "to make sure something like this does not happen again."

The release also included the following statement:

"We are in the process of contacting his family and want to express our gratitude to the employees and the safety forces that responded to this incident. This is shocking and tragic news for all of us but especially for the family, friends and colleagues of our employee."

<https://www.cantonrep.com/article/20140217/News/140219341>

Man killed after accident in Lorain's Republic Steel rail yard

By The Associated Press - Posted Feb 17, 2014 at 12:15 PM

OSHA has begun an investigation into the accident, but it could take months before a review is complete.

Authorities have identified a northern Ohio steel plant worker who was killed in an accident at the train yard last week.

A union official said 62-year-old Frank Johnson was riding on the side of a train car when it hit two parked train cars in the rail yard at the Republic Steel plant in Lorain on Friday.

Lorain County Coroner Stephen Evans said Johnson was trapped between the two parked train cars and was killed instantly.

The Toledo office of Occupational Health and Safety has begun an investigation into the accident, but it could take months before a review is complete.

<http://www.safetynewsalert.com/worker-crushed-to-death-had-feared-injury-would-happen/>

Worker crushed to death had feared injury would happen

by Fred Hosier February 21, 2014

Frank Johnson Sr.'s wife said her husband had worried for four or five months before his death that "somebody is going to get killed" at work and he hoped "it ain't me." Now OSHA is investigating his death.

Johnson had worked at Republic Steel in Lorain, Ohio, for 45 years. Most recently, he was a brakeman on a train crew operating on the grounds of the steel mill.

On Feb. 14, that all came to an end.

Johnson was riding on the side of a train car delivering scrap to the mill. The single car was being pulled by a lone engine when it hit a set of parked train cars.

According to the mill's union president, Johnson "got pinched between the two sets of cars. The other set of cars were apparently off the track a little."

Johnson died immediately from multiple injuries.

OSHA has up to six months to investigate and decide whether Republic will face any citations and fines.

Severe violator - Republic isn't a stranger to OSHA.

In 2011, the agency placed the steel manufacturer in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program which concentrates on inspecting companies that have "demonstrated indifference to their OSH Act obligations by willful, repeated, or failure-to-abate violations."

Just last year, OSHA fined Republic \$1.1 million for 24 violations (15 willful, 1 repeat, 8 serious) at its Canton, Ohio, plant. The agency inspected the plant following a formal complaint from the United Steelworkers Union. Several of the citations were for fall hazards. While investigating, OSHA discovered two workers had been seriously injured in falls at the site in 2012.

On Nov. 30, 2013, a fire at the Lorain facility caused millions of dollars in damage to the plant. The facility is undergoing an \$85 million upgrade including installation of a new arc furnace. The upgrade is expected to create 450 new jobs.

Johnson's son also worked at the Lorain mill. On the day of his father's death, Frank Johnson Jr. was working in the scrap yard. He said his father had been concerned about ice and snow on the train tracks and a lack of maintenance on very old train cars.