

Safety Flash

Incident with Recordable Injury

Date of Incident: 11/30/2018

The Incident

As two pipefitters drove a van back to the trailer, they came to a railroad crossing. The crossing was in a Y-configuration, with one set of tracks traveling from the north and crossing the road to the west and another set of tracks running east to west. It is unclear if the van came to a full stop before continuing across the tracks. The pipefitter driving the vehicle said he looked left, then right and proceeded.

As the van crossed the tracks, a train coming from the north and heading west struck and significantly damaged the van's passenger door. The passenger sustained bruises on his right side and minor lacerations on his right hand. The train consisted of 15 empty coal/coke cars and was traveling about 5 mph. The conductor called for an emergency stop. The van was pushed by the lead railcar about a railcar's length before coming to a complete stop.

The Causes

- The driver did not maintain the necessary focus at the stop sign/rail crossing for safe driving at an industrial facility

Prevent It

- All GEM-authorized drivers on site were trained in defensive driving.
- All GEM associates on site viewed a train-shoving video produced by ArcelorMittal Cleveland Works Railway.
- GEM worked with the owner to promote and improve rail crossing safety on site.

Action Plan

- Safety stand-downs were held on site with all trades to share incident details and findings.
- All GEM-authorized drivers on site were trained in defensive driving.
- All GEM associates on site viewed the customer video on locomotive moves.

Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.