



PRELIMINARY REPORT

RAILROAD

Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad Employee Fatality Tuscola, Illinois

November 11, 2020

The information in this report is preliminary and will be either supplemented or corrected during the investigation.

On November 11, 2020, at 9:43 a.m. local time, a Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad (DREI) conductor, riding the rear rail car of train 200-11, was killed while picking up rail cars in an industry facility outside of Tuscola, Illinois. Train 200-11 consisted of one locomotive and three rail cars. The train crew consisted of one engineer, one conductor, and one conductor trainee. Preliminary information from the event recorder indicated the train was moving at about 8 mph with the conductor and conductor trainee riding the rear rail car. (See figure 1.) Preliminary information further indicated that during the train movement, the conductor was struck by a gate at the facility entrance. At the time of the accident, the sky was partly cloudy, the wind was about 12 mph from the west-northwest, and the reported temperature was 34°F.



Figure 1. Illustration of the accident. (Photograph courtesy of Google Earth.)

The National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) investigation into this accident is ongoing. Future investigative activity will focus on the safety rules related to switching operations.

No parties were established; however, DREI and the Federal Railroad Administration are cooperating with the NTSB in the investigation.