



# **PRELIMINARY REPORT**

## **RAILROAD**

### **CSX Railroad Employee Fatality**

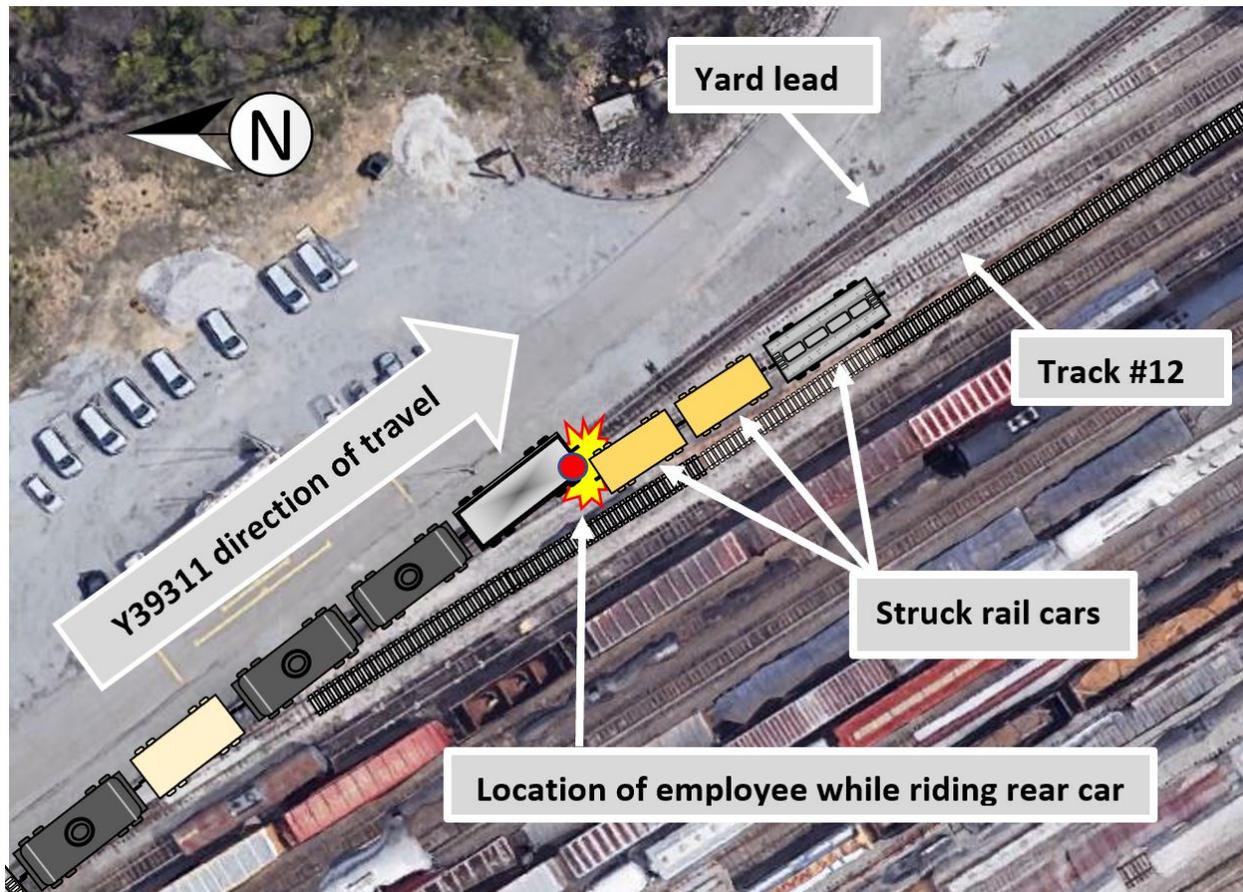
**Richmond, Virginia**

**October 12, 2020**

**RRD21LR001**

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

On October 12, 2020, at 2:17 a.m. local time a CSX Transportation (CSX) employee riding on the outside platform of CSX train Y39311 was killed when the train collided with three standing rail cars in the Acca Rail Yard in Richmond, Virginia. The employee was working alone and operating the train, that consisted of one locomotive and 18 rail cars, by remote control. The employee was operating the train in reverse and was in the process of shoving (moving) rail cars down the yard lead when the train struck the northeast corner of one of the three rail cars that were positioned in track #12 that had fouled the yard lead. (See figure 1.) Preliminary information from the event recorder showed the train was traveling at about 4 mph. It was dark and rainy at the time of the accident and the temperature was 65°F.



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

The National Transportation Safety Board investigation is ongoing. Future investigative activity will focus on CSX operating rules, special safety rules regarding remote control operations and Acca Rail Yard, the elevation of yard tracks, as well as the training and oversight of train crews.

Parties to the investigation include CSX, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.