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Safety Alerts

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Safety Alert: Use of Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are widely used in today's culture. When used appropriately, electronic devices can enhance railroad safety, operational efficiency, and communication. These may also introduce an element of distraction. Any distraction while performing a safety-critical task can be hazardous and has been linked to accidents and fatalities, both on railroads and highways.

The FAMES Committee makes the following recommendations regarding electronic devices:

- Employers should establish policies that clearly identify where, when, and under what conditions electronic devices can be used safely.
- When the use of electronic devices is permitted by railroad rules, their use should be addressed in the job briefing.
- Employees should not use electronic devices except as provided by an employer's rules and policies which may include:
 - Driving a motor vehicle
 - Operating on-track/off-track equipment
 - Standing or walking in the foul of any track
 - Working near roadway workers or equipment
 - Performing RWP, Watchman/Lookout or Flagman duties
 - During job and on-track safety briefings

All distractions reduce your focus on safety and can be fatal. This is true whether you are on or near the track or the highway.

Keep your head out of your Apps!

Dedication: The FAMES Committee dedicates its efforts to all roadway workers who have lost their lives in the performance of duty and to the families, loved ones, and coworkers they have left behind.

Mission Statement: The Mission of the Fatality Analysis of Maintenance-of-way Employees and Signalmen (FAMES) Committee is to analyze all fatalities and selected related incidents in order to make recommendations to reduce the risk of future occurrences and eliminate fatalities to roadway workers.