

Press Release: Train vs. Pedestrian Fatality

Case # 19-M00772

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Lieutenant Greg Booth

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(360) 336-6273 or (360) 661-3668

This morning at 1:53am, Mount Vernon Police responded to the report of a pedestrian struck by a train near Cameron Way and West Fir Street.

On arrival, officers located an unresponsive 19-year old Mount Vernon man, lying near the tracks. Fire and med crews confirmed the male was deceased.

Investigators learned the male was walking northbound on the tracks, near W. Fir Street and Cameron Way, when a northbound BNSF freight train came around the bend under I-5. Train operators applied emergency braking measures and sounded the warning horn, however the pedestrian didn't move from the tracks and was struck by the train. Investigators are still trying to determine why the male was on tracks and why he failed to move when the train approached.

The BNSF train remained on scene for several hours while the investigation was conducted. The tracks were re-opened at approximately 4:30am.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that would assist investigators is asked to call the 24-hour dispatch information number (360) 428-3211 or during business hours call Mount Vernon Police at (360) 336-6271.

This is an unfortunate reminder of the dangers associated with walking on or near railroad tracks. The primary railroad line through the City of Mount Vernon is owned and operated by BNSF Railway and is considered private property. Walking on the tracks is considered trespassing, and violators can be prosecuted.

Lieutenant Greg Booth