

# Railroad Worker Suffers Fatal Injuries in Fall From Jacksonville Train Trestle Bridge

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MIAMI, FL—Officials are expected to investigate a recent [on-the-job accident](#) that claimed the life of an Osmose Railroad Services employee from Michigan on Feb. 14. According to the Florida Times-Union, a railroad worker was in the midst of conducting repairs on a railroad trestle below the Acosta Bridge in Jacksonville, Fla. when—for unknown reasons—he slipped from the bed of a boom truck, struck his head and ended up in the St. John’s River.

Upon falling from the train trestle bridge, 42-year-old railroad worker Peter Jerome Michnick remained submerged underwater for approximately 5 minutes. Reports indicated a boater in the area retrieved the victim and two of his co-workers—who apparently jumped into the St. John’s River to try and save him— and transported them to a nearby dock.

While the badly injured worker was rushed to Shands Jacksonville Medical Center following the Jacksonville accident, his fall-related injuries ultimately proved fatal at the hospital. Investigations into the fatal on-the-job accident are ongoing.

According to standards set by the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#), “Employees working over or near water, where the danger of drowning exists, shall be provided with U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket or buoyant work vests... Prior to and after each use, the buoyant work vests or life preservers shall be inspected for defects which would alter their strength or buoyancy. Defective units shall not be used.”

OSHA regulations also state, “Ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line shall be provided and readily available for emergency rescue operations. Distance between ring buoys shall not exceed 200 feet” and “at least one lifesaving skiff shall be immediately available at locations where employees are working over or adjacent to water.”

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