

Railway Accidents in the United States

2011 through June 2014

- 8 March 2011 – *United States* – A [CSX](#) train travelling through [Newton Falls, Ohio](#) with an estimated 100-cars of mixed freight (including [hoppers](#) and [tank wagons](#)), suffers a 12-car derailment at approximately 07.00 (local time) [Eastern Daylight Time](#). Three rail cars fall off a bridge and onto Center Street.^[69] Several of the tank cars are carrying [chlorine](#); none are involved in the derailment. Initial reports indicate that at least one car may have leaked [ammonia](#), but officials do not believe that any [hazardous materials](#) have escaped into the environment. Residents within 150 metres of the incident are evacuated, and most roads leading into town are closed by law enforcement officers. Local [HAZMAT](#) officials arrive to assess the scene, and the United States [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) opens an inquiry into the incident 'as a matter of standard procedure'.^{[70][71]}
- 17 April 2011 – *United States* – A [Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway](#) train hauling 130-cars of coal from Wyoming to Chicago rear-ends another train hauling maintenance equipment near [Red Oak, Iowa](#) about 07.00 (local time) on Sunday 17 April 2011. The lead locomotive on the coal train derails and fire engulfs the cab. The crew of two, the conductor and engineer, on the coal train are killed. Ten cars on the maintenance train derail. The two crew members on the maintenance train are not injured. The line is heavily trafficked and is shut down for 24 hours, with trains re-routed. An investigation is conducted by the [NTSB](#).^{[73][74]}
- 3 June 2011 – *United States* – A [Burlington Northern](#) commuter train from [Aurora, Illinois](#) and an Amtrak train heading to [Carbondale, Illinois](#) collide at [Chicago's Union Station](#) at about 08.15, injuring at least five people. One of the trains derails.^[79]
- 24 June 2011 – *United States* – [Reno](#), Nevada: Despite the working signals on the track, an semi, driving on a rural stretch of [U.S. Route 95](#) near [Reno](#) and [Sparks](#), strikes one of the cars of a west-bound [California Zephyr Amtrak](#) passenger train, killing at least six people, according to [Nevada Highway Patrol](#) Trooper Dan Lopez and the Churchill County Sheriff's Office (the driver of the articulated lorry, whose reason or motivation remains unclear at this time, and an Amtrak conductor on board the train are two confirmed deaths so far).^[81]
- 11 July 2011 – *United States* – An [Amtrak Downeaster](#) passenger train from [Boston, Massachusetts](#) heading to [Portland, Maine](#) is struck by a dustbin lorry at a crossing in North Berwick, Maine, killing the driver of the lorry and setting the locomotive and one passenger car on fire.^[86]
- 7 October 2011 – *United States* – 26 cars of a 131-car freight train derail and explode near Tiskilwa in [Bureau County, Illinois](#), approximately 160 kilometres (99 mi) west of Chicago. No injuries are reported; 800 people are evacuated.^{[101][102]}

- 12 October 2011 – *United States* – In [Oakland, California](#) a southbound [Amtrak San Joaquin](#) train passes a red signal and collides with a stopped [Coast Starlight](#) train at low speed, injuring seventeen people.^[103]

2012

- 6 January 2012 – *United States* – Three CSX freight trains collide in a remote section of [Porter County, Indiana](#) resulting in a fire and possible [HAZMAT](#) situation. Two injuries are reported.^[111]
- 17 January 2012 – *United States* – A [BNSF](#) freight train collides with a [tractor trailer](#) in northeast [Montana](#), causing ten rail cars to derail, including four locomotives and blocking the traffic on the rail line.^[113]
- 1 February 2012 – *United States* – The Amtrak [Wolverine](#) train from [Pontiac, Michigan](#) to [Chicago](#), carrying 71 passengers and 5 crew, strikes a stalled tractor trailer (carrying equipment for oil production) on tracks in [Leoni Township, Michigan](#). The lead engine and at least two cars derail. There are no fatalities, and six people suffer non-life-threatening injuries, according to the [Jackson Citizen Patriot](#) and the Blackman-Leoni Public Safety Department.^[117]
- 4 July 2012 – *United States* – A [Union Pacific](#) coal train heading to Wisconsin derails, collapsing an overpass on Shermer Road in [Glenview, Illinois](#) at about 13.45. A day later, a couple, having been crushed by the falling coal and cars, are found dead in their car buried beneath the rubble.^[136]
- 11 July 2012 – *United States* – A [Norfolk Southern](#) train with 2 locomotives and 98 cars derails in [Columbus, Ohio](#), near the Ohio State Fairgrounds at 02.05 [CDT](#). The resulting explosion, caused in part due to the burning of 76,000 litres (17,000 imperial gallons) of [ethanol](#), causes a mile-wide evacuation. At the time of the explosion, two nearby individuals are injured; they drive themselves to hospital.^[137]
- 21 August 2012 – *United States* – Two women celebrating the night before their return to university on a railway bridge die shortly after midnight when a CSX coal train derails on the bridge in downtown [Ellicott City, Maryland](#), burying the women under coal.^[143] The [NTSB](#) investigation attributed the probable cause of the derailment to a broken rail.^[144]
- 1 October 2012 – *United States* – In [California](#) Amtrak Train 712, travelling from [Oakland, CA](#) to [Bakersfield, CA](#), is hit by a lorry carrying cotton at a gated level crossing. Three of the train's five cars as well as the trailing GE P42DC locomotive, #94, derailed. No deaths, 50 injuries.
- 15 November 2012 – *United States* – **Midland train crash** – Around 16.30 four people die and 16 others are injured when a [Union Pacific](#) train strikes a parade float headed to an event honouring wounded veterans in [Midland, Texas](#).^{[156][157]}

- 30 November 2012 – *United States* – One of three daily trains that cross an old style [swing bridge](#) derails near [Paulsboro, New Jersey](#), resulting in one car leaking [vinyl chloride](#) into the air. More than 40 people were treated for breathing problems in the immediate area. The bridge is said to have buckled, after having been rebuilt in 2010 after a similar 2009 crash.^[162]
- 17 December 2012 – *United States* – A BNSF intermodal train from Chicago derails when a landslide strikes it in [Everett, Washington](#). This event is captured on video.^{[163][164]}

2013

- 26 April 2013 – *United States* – At a rural [Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad](#) crossing, in [Butler County, Pennsylvania](#) (near [Pittsburgh](#)), an [Allegheny Valley Railroad](#) freight train carrying [asphalt](#) (with 2 locomotives, 29 cars; traveling at the 25 mph limit) strikes an Alliance for Nonprofit Resources Inc. Butler Area Rural Transit Authority bus carrying impaired seniors and younger adults at the Maple Street intersection. It's unclear whether the bus stopped on or before the tracks; the train's brakes are believed to have been applied and the horn to have sounded. Two people are flown by helicopter to area trauma centres—one was in critical condition, and a 91-year-old woman dies later at [Allegheny General Hospital](#). Ten others, including the bus driver, are also hospitalised.^[192]
- 25 May 2013 – *United States* – Seven people are injured when two freight trains collide early in the morning at a rail intersection in southeast [Missouri](#), causing a highway [overpass](#) to collapse (this occurred shortly after a bridge collapse in [Washington](#) state and the above-mentioned Fairfield, [Connecticut](#) commuter train collision). The accident occurs when a [Union Pacific](#) train [T-bones](#) a [Burlington Northern Santa Fe](#) train outside of [Scott City, Missouri](#) about 190 kilometres (120 mi) south of [St. Louis, Missouri](#). One of the trains derails, sending rail cars smashing into an overpass support pillar. Five of the injured are in automobiles, and two are on the train. All but one of the injured are treated and released from the hospital. 🌐 [37.209636°N 89.745727°W](#)^[200]
- 28 May 2013 – *United States* – A freight train derails outside [Rosedale, Maryland](#), just outside [Baltimore](#) after colliding with a [garbage truck](#). Fifteen cars from the [CSX](#) train Q409 derail and two catch fire. An explosion damages nearby buildings. Only the truck driver is injured. Those within a 20-block radius of the crash site are asked to evacuate. [Hazardous materials](#) crews are sent to the scene. The [National Transportation Safety Board](#) sends a team to investigate the accident.^[201]
- 5 August 2013 – *United States* – More than 20 cars of Union Pacific train derail in Louisiana near Lawtell.^[211]

- 19 August 2013 – *India* – A high-speed [Rajya Rani Express](#) crashes into a crowd of Hindu pilgrims crossing the tracks at a remote station in the [Saharsa District](#) east India; 37 people die, more are injured.
- 16 September 2013 – *United States* – A freight train derailed near [Seville, Illinois](#) when a bridge over the [Spoon River](#) collapses under it.^[215]
- 19 September 2013 – *United States* – A [CSX](#) train derailed in [Southampton County, Virginia](#) injuring two engineers and starting a fire.^[217]
- 30 September 2013 – *United States* – An out-of-service [Chicago Transit Authority](#) train crashes head-on into a stopped train in [Forest Park, Illinois](#), injuring 33 people.^[218]
- 11 October 2013 – *United States* – A truck carrying logs collides with a [Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad](#) train carrying 63 people in [Randolph County, West Virginia](#). The driver of the truck dies, and 23 on the train are injured, six of them seriously.^[219]
- 24 October 2013 – *United States* – One person dies when four freight cars loaded with gravel derail at the [SunRail](#) station on [State Road 46](#) in [Sanford, Florida](#).^[223]
- 8 November 2013 – *United States* – A 90-car freight train carrying crude oil from the [Bakken shale patch](#) in [North Dakota](#) (possibly similar to the type carried in the July 2013 [Lac-Mégantic derailment](#) in [Quebec, Canada](#)), from [Amory, Mississippi](#) to a refinery in [Walnut Hill, Florida](#), derailed and explodes in the morning in [Pickens County, Alabama](#) (west AL); the flames, which shot upward 300 feet high, were left to burn themselves out, which may take up to 24 hours. There were no fatalities or injuries.^[225]
- 30 November 2013 – *United States* – [Southwestern Railroad \(New Mexico\)](#) train derailed outside [Silver City, New Mexico](#), resulting in the death of the conductor Steven "Steve" Crose, 60, engineer Donald "D.A." White, 38, and ride-along passenger Ann Thompson, 50. The train is leaving a mine operated by [Freeport-McMoRan](#) Copper and Gold on a 6% slope when it experiences braking failure. Traveling out of control for miles, the locomotive, which contains all three occupants, eventually leaves the track on a curve completely disconnecting from the eight cars heavily loaded with [magnetite](#) and slides into an [arroyo \(creek\)](#). All three occupants of the locomotive are killed immediately on impact and must be extricated from the badly damaged locomotive by emergency responders. The eight freight

cars continue on the track a short distance before stopping. It is originally reported that all three occupants are male employees,^[227] but a correction later specifies that the female ride-along passenger was not an employee.^[228]



Spuyten Duyvil derailment.

- 1 December 2013 – *United States* – **Derailment** at Spuyten Duyvil, the Bronx, New York City – The engineer of a Metro-North Railroad passenger train from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central Station falls asleep with the train at full throttle. It enters a 30 mph (48 km/h) curve just before Spuyten Duyvil station at 82 mph (132 km/h) and derails, killing 4 and injuring 63. It is the first Metro-North accident with passenger fatalities.^[229] The engineer's fatigue was caused by severe, undiagnosed sleep apnea in combination with a recent shift change.^[230]
- 5 December 2013 – *United States* – A runaway Canadian National ore train rear-ends an ore train in Two Harbors, Minnesota. Two crew members jumped clear and two crew members were hospitalized when they stayed in a trailing locomotive.
- 30 December 2013 – *United States* – Casselton train derailment – Several grain cars from a westbound train derail and strike an eastbound train carrying crude oil on an adjoining track near Casselton, North Dakota. Several crude oil cars explode, resulting in large clouds of black smoke which forced an evacuation of the area. No casualties were reported.^[238]

2014

- 7 January 2014 – *United States* – A CTA Yellow Line passenger train derails in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. The two-car train derailed in the early afternoon, briefly disrupting late afternoon rush hour traffic. No injuries were reported.^[241]
- 13 January 2014 – *United States* – A BNSF train derails near Kent, Washington after a landslide. The landslide also disrupted Amtrak and Sound Transit passenger rail service.^[242]
- 17 January 2014 – *United States* – A CSX train carrying coal derails near Dunnellon, Florida. Twelve cars of the 100-car train derailed in a rural area. The train was transporting the coal to the Duke Energy Crystal River Energy Complex. No injuries were reported.^[245]

- 19 January 2014 – *United States* – A [Union Pacific](#) train carrying coal derails near [Caledonia, Wisconsin](#). Nineteen cars of the 135-car train derailed. The cause is believed to be cracked rails caused by unusually cold winter conditions. No injuries were reported.^[246]
- 20 January 2014 – *United States* – A [CSX](#) train carrying crude oil derails in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#). Seven cars of a 101-car train derailed on a bridge over the Schuylkill Expressway, causing the road to be shut down for brief periods of time as emergency crews drained the tankers. No injuries were reported.^[247]
- 22 January 2014 – *United States* – A [BNSF](#) train transporting 18 empty intermodal rail cars derails inside the Lindenwood Yard in [St. Louis, Missouri](#). No injuries were reported and the derailment was cleared the same day.^[249]
- 23 January 2014 – *United States* – A [BNSF](#) train carrying corn derails near [Ross, North Dakota](#). The derailment of eleven cars disrupted transportation of crude oil from the [Bakken oil formation](#) to ports in Montana. No injuries were reported.^[250]
- 25 January 2014 – *United States* – A [Union Pacific](#) freight train derails near [Morrow, Louisiana](#). No injuries were reported, and no chemical or hazardous materials were reported as spilled.^[251]
- 27 January 2014 – *United States* – A [Union Pacific](#) train carrying scrap paper derails near [Pollard Flat, California](#). Only one box car in the four-car train was carrying cargo, with no cargo spillage. The derailment caused disruption to [Amtrak](#) passenger rail service, resulting in riders being transported via buses between Oregon and California.^[253]
- 28 January 2014 – *United States* – A [CN](#) train carrying plastic pellets derails near [Mundelein, Illinois](#). One set of wheels on a hopper in a 110-car train derailed on a single lane track, resulting in disruptions of service over two days for several passenger and freight services as trains needed to be rerouted.^[254]
- 28 January 2014 – *United States* – A [CSX](#) train carrying phosphoric acid derails near [McDavid, Florida](#). 23 of the 69 cars derailed, resulting in the destruction of the tracks and bridge over Fletcher Creek, and chemicals leaking into the water. No injuries were reported.^[255]
- 30 January 2014 – *United States* – A [NS](#) train transporting 179 empty coal cars derailed near [Jewell Ridge, Virginia](#). No injuries were reported, and the accident was cleared on the same day.^[256]
- 31 January 2014 – *United States* – A [CN](#) train carrying crude oil, methane and liquid fertilizer derails near [New Augusta, Mississippi](#). 18 to 24 cars of the 85-car train derailed and began leaking. The derailment occurred in a rural area, but resulted in 12 families being evacuated and four lanes of U.S. 98 closed as emergency responders began to clean up the spill. No injuries were reported.^[257]

- 24 March 2014 – *United States* – A train in [Chicago, Illinois](#) [overruns the buffers](#) and goes up the escalator at [O'Hare International Airport](#), injuring 32 people.^[262]
- 30 April 2014 – *United States* – CSX derailment: 15 tankers carrying crude oil derail and catch fire in Lynchburg, Virginia, striking fears of water contamination in the local area and beyond.^[265]
- 1 May 2014 – *United States* – CSX coal train derailed three locomotives and 10 cars in Bowie, MD.^[266]
- 10 May 2014 – *United States* – a train traveling in Colorado derails and spills 6,500 US gallons (25,000 l; 5,400 imp gal) of oil west of [LaSalle, Colorado](#).^[270]
- 4 July 2014 – *United States* – 19 cars of a [Montana Rail Link](#) train, carrying manufactured plane parts, soybeans, and alcohol from [Kansas City, Kansas](#) to [Renton, Washington](#), derail. 3 [airplane fuselages](#) spill into a local river. No injuries are reported, and the nearby river pass and fishing gorge is closed to remove debris.^[274]
- 5 October 2014 – *United States* – a [Union Pacific](#) freight train slams into a lowboy trailer in [Mer Rouge, LA](#), seriously injuring both railroad crew and causing two engines along with 17 cars to derail. 50 homes are evacuated for about two hours due to the leakage of argon gas from the tank car.^[citation needed]
- 16 October 2014 – *United States* – An [excursion train](#) of the [Arkansas-Missouri Railroad](#) stalls on the mainline near [West Fork, Arkansas](#); the crew of the locomotive sent to help the train does not have the precise location of the stalled train and runs into the stalled train's locomotive after rounding a curve. 44 people are injured in the collision, 5 critically.^{[282][283]} An NTSB team was dispatched to investigate.^[284]
- 28 October 2014 - *United States* - 24 were injured when an [Amtrak](#) train collided with a semi truck on [U.S. Route 421](#).^[285]