July 29, 2020

Jerry:

Thank you for your letter dated July 17, 2020 regarding the critical pedestrian incident on June 29, 2010 involving the MCBPR. Mr. Eric Gehringer asked that I respond to your letter.

After some research on the chain of events, I learned the following. It is Union Pacific protocol that after an incident where body fluids such as blood or tissue matter are found on the rolling stock, a call is to be placed to Risk Management Communication Center (RMCC). This longstanding protocol established with RMCC results in various management notifications and the "call-out" of a bio-hazmat clean-up contractor to decontaminate the equipment. In this instance, based on Union Pacific's records, RMCC appears to have been notified of the incident but was not notified of the potential bio-hazard.   Therefore, a remediation contractor was not contacted.   Instead, it appears a Mechanic in Charge (MIC) was contacted. The MIC does not have the equipment, chemical cleaners, nor training to address such a critical incident.   As such, the train was advanced.

This incident indicates there was a breakdown in our protocols. It resulted in a situation where we did not timely address the issue forcing our employees to bring it to our attention when it should have been addressed correctly through our protocols.

The management team has been reminded of the requirement to contact RMCC with all pertinent information so that the protocols are followed as designed.

Regarding cleaning the UP5489, the Mechanical Department's records indicated the locomotive was shopped on July 1st at Proviso.   It appears the Maintenance Work Order shows left front handhold repairs, ditch light replacement and the cleaning of the cab.   The Locomotive was released, read to work on the afternoon of July 3rd.

This incident will be used to reinforce with the management team the necessity of complying with the RMCC notification processes. Thank you for bringing the incident to management's attention.

Sincerely,

Rod Doerr

Vice President – Labor Relations

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