

## Pennsy Trains Crash in Yard, 7 Injured

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(Ohio State Journal, August 14, 1959)

Pennsylvania Railroad crews worked through the night Thursday attempting to repair damage caused when two heavily loaded freight trains crashed east of the Fourth St. Viaduct.

Rail spokesmen expected the wreckage to be cleared and rails repaired for resumption of regular service early Friday.

Investigators taking statements from crewmen on the two diesels refused to discuss the specific cause of the 1:10 p.m. collision, but they said there apparently "was some sort of mix-up" on signals.

No estimates on damage were available, but railroaders said it would "undoubtedly run up" since all six of the diesel units on the two trains were damaged and six sets of rails torn up.

**THE FIRST UNITS** on each of the trains was nearly overturned by the almost head-on impact. Both were knocked across adjoining tracks.

Tailing diesel units were also knocked askew.

Firemen were called to the Fifth St. scene in the Neilston Yards on a stand-by basis. A number of cars were loaded with oil and the diesel units were all fueled. No fire developed.

The Fire Emergency Squad took five crewmen to Grant Hospital for treatment.

Roy E. Fairbanks, 60, 1712 E. Main Street,

Paul F. Echelbarger, 41, of 227 Columbian Avenue,

George F. Gallagher, 48, of 65 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

Harry P. Wilson, 61, of 594 Larcomb Avenue, and

James E. Miller, 39, Beechgrove, Ind.

R.L. Bishop, 2188 Homestead Drive, and S.M. [F.N.] Lewis, Columbus whose address was not listed also suffered minor cuts and bruises.

Railroad officials reported the undamaged freight cars were pulled to destinations by other trains. Traffic was rerouted around the crash scene.

## Damage Is \$150,000 in Wreck

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(Columbus Dispatch, August 14, 1959)

Damage will total \$150,000 in the head-on collision of two freight trains near the 4<sup>th</sup> St. Viaduct Thursday, Pennsylvania Railroad officials said Friday.

Repair crews had cleared all the wreckage from tracks at 2:45 a.m. Friday, more than 12 hours after the accident that tied up freight traffic and injured seven men.

All seven treated at the hospital for minor cuts and bruises, reported back for duty Friday.

**N.G. ANDERS**, supervisor of train movement, who made the damage estimate, said "failure of a B&O switch tender to line the proper route" had been established as the accident cause. Pennsylvania trains operate on B&O tracks at the accident site, he said.

First units on each of the heavily loaded freight trains were nearly overturned by the impact and were knocked sidewise over adjoining tracks. All six diesel units on the two trains were damaged and six sets of rails torn up.

Fireman stood by at the scene since the diesel units were all fueled and a number of cars were loaded with oil. No fire occurred.

**ANDERS SAID** passenger train service was delayed only "five to 15 minutes" but that some freight traffic was delayed for six hours.

Injured crewmen included:

Roy E. Fairbanks, 60, 1712 E. Main Street,

Paul F. Echelbarger, 41, of 227 Columbian Avenue,

George F. Gallagher, 48, of 65 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue,

Harry P. Wilson, 61, of 594 Larcomb Avenue,

James E. Miller, 39, Beechgrove, Ind.,

R.L. Bishop, 2188 Homestead Drive, and

S.M. [F.N.] Lewis, Columbus (whose address was not listed.)