

### Verify Route

More than 90% of all shoving and other than main track incidents are due to not verifying the route. Failing to verify the route can result in life-altering events. Verifying switches are lined, for the correct track, and all derails are repositioned to the non-derailing position before shoving is critical to our safety and the safety of our team.

To start, we must first verify we are operating on the track (s) intended. The time we take to verify we are working on the correct track(s) may make the difference between safely completing our move and a serious incident. Next, consider any potential problems along the intended route, including trains, engines, rail cars, other workers, and switches or derails that may be lined improperly. We must visually inspect the route in advance of these movements to ensure they are completed safely.

The speed at which we operate along our path is another crucial factor. Ensure you are operating at a speed which allows for stopping short of any trains, engines, railroad cars, men or equipment fouling the track, stop signal or a derail switch lined improperly, including cases in which on-track equipment may be moving *toward* you.



Though this sounds simple enough, we experience hundreds of incidents each year because routes are not properly verified. **Ask these Three Questions to avoid incidents and injuries:**

1. Have I **VERIFIED** the correct tracks for the intended route?
2. Have I **VERIFIED** all switches are lined properly and derails are removed and in the non-derailing position for the intended route before movement is made over any switch or derail?
3. Have I **VERIFIED** that conditions provide for safe movement within the intended route before movement is made?

To complete these routine tasks safely without incident or injury, we must avoid distractions, and follow the appropriate rules/procedures. It is critical that we take the time to do it right the first time. When in doubt, pause the work, re-brief and make the adjustments accordingly to perform the task safely each and every time.

Never assume your route is lined and clear. Exposure to incident or injury increases whenever we assume anything. If another employee was involved in lining your route, trust but verify.

Remember, no deadline or production goal is worth the risk of injury or incident. **Choose safety when verifying routes.** By working together, looking out for each other and remaining focused through every task, we can achieve our safety vision to operate a railroad free of accidents and injuries.