

## **ROUGH RIDING LOCOMOTIVES CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT SPINE INJURIES**

We have recently obtained through court orders BNSF documents showing extensive problems with rough riding engines. Recent studies, from sources inside and outside the railroad, have found that rough riding locomotives can cause serious spine injuries, particularly in the low back. These injuries may result from single episodes of extreme vertical or lateral motion, or from the long term cumulative effects of vertical or lateral motion and vibration over time.

These documents, which the railroad fought hard to avoid us getting, show that locomotives may ride rough for different reasons. Lack of maintenance is one. The documents show that another reason for rough riding is that in units such as SD 70 MACs and SD 90 MACs, the suspension system design and the isolated cab feature of these units can cause over time harmful motion and vibration, leading to injuries to the spine. Train speed, train weight, and track conditions also can contribute to the potential for spinal injuries from such units.

If you or any train or engine service employee have been diagnosed with a back problem, or has had back pain, resulting in medical treatment, there may be a case that should be looked into, especially for employees who have worked on trains quite a number of years. Feel free to call the office and we can determine whether there may be a relationship between these problems and the locomotives that have been furnished by the railroad, and provide advice on your legal rights regarding this. As you know, it is important to stay current on your legal rights, and I wanted you to know this, particularly because most people do not realize that there are railroad documents showing significant problems with BNSF engines.

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