

## **Semi vs. BNSF Freight Train - Injury Crash - Benson County, ND**

**What:** Injury Crash

**Where:** 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE @ Railroad Crossing - 1 ¾ Miles West of York, ND

**When:** January 13, 2020 @ 12:35 PM

**Road Conditions:** Gravel Roadway Surface - Ice/Compacted Snow

**Weather Conditions:** Overcast Sky

**Crash Involvement:** Train vs. Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Angle Collision

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Leeds Fire Department, Leeds Ambulance Service

**Vehicle No. 1:** 1990 GMC Conventional Cab Semi Truck with grain trailer in tow  
**Driver No. 1:** Joseph Hendrix; 35; Knox, ND; Injured; non-life threatening injuries  
**Restraints:** Seatbelt  
**Charges:** Driving Under Suspension, Failed to stop for railroad crossing

**NARRATIVE:** Hendrix was traveling southbound on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE from a rural Benson County farm residence to a grain elevator in York. The freight train was traveling in a southeast direction towing 72 freight train cars from Minot, ND to Dilworth, MN.

Hendrix failed to stop for the approaching freight train at the railroad crossing and the grain trailer was struck by the freight train. Due to the force of the collision, the trailer was sheared in half. The semi and a portion of the grain trailer came to final rest on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE on the south side of the railroad tracks. The other half of the grain trailer came to final rest on 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE on the north side of the railroad tracks.

Hendrix sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported by ambulance to Heart of America Medical Center in Rugby. The BNSF train crew was uninjured in the crash.



47<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE was blocked for 4+ hours due to the crash scene investigation and clean-up. The BNSF train and all 72 freight cars remained on the railroad tracks and were able to continue onto Dilworth, MN after the crash scene was cleared.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

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**For More Information Contact:**

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