

The Knapp train crash

I always saw train crashes as something that you heard in the news but not something that never would happen to any old person like me. Every time I step into the train cab I do think about the possibility of a crash happening but each time I remind myself the trains are safe. That morning, I thought it would just be the same old same old, I never thought about what would happen next.

Union Pacific controls the railway through Menomonie and their trains that go through it. Only one train derailment happened in Knapp in 1881 so this railway is very safe. The U.P. railway stretches through menomonie in knapp and then to minneapolis & st paul. The Union Pacific railroad is the biggest railroad in the US. The UP railroad haul almost everything in the US without railroads it would be impossible to get things anywhere.

Menomonie is a town in north west wisconsin wisconsin has a very long history. Menomonie has a population of about 16,000 people. Menomonie was first settled in 1848. Menomonie is next to the red cedar river. Knapp is a small town west of Menomonie with a population of about 500 people. The U.P. The railroad comes from chicago then goes through Menomonie through knapp and to the twin cities. And in the twin cities is the train yard where most trains on that route stop to pick up or drop off more cars.

It was 3:30pm in the afternoon and me and my coworker were sitting in the cab of our train. We were going under the road by the menomonie movie theater. The train was cruising at 50mph. I remember being very tired and wanting to go home. We only had 26 miles to the next yard. The train was nearing 55mph as we rounded the corner into knapp and the engine got past the crossing. 10 seconds later the whole train jumped and I heard metal scraping as the train flew past all the house. I was hoping that nobody was near the tracks. I pulled the brake lever all the way back to emergency and instantly the train started to slow and the sound of the wheels scraping was defining. Train usually takes over a mile to stop but since I pulled the emergency brake and the cars that weren't on the track

were scraping on the ground slowing the train down. After the train stopped I was shocked and forgot what to do.

After a minute I took my phone out of my pocket shaking uncontrollably. I dialed 911 and explained to the dispatcher that my train just derailed. She told me to keep calm and to just stay in the train so i don't get hurt. After a few minutes I heard the sirens of the police car. One of the police officers came to the cab and told me it was safe to come out of the train cab. As I walked out of the train cab onto the ground I could not believe that this happened and all I could think about was getting in trouble with my boss. I walked back to where the derailment happened.

I remember looking at the piles of train cars. There was debris everywhere scattered on the ground. It looked like a tornado just went through. A smell of burning lingered in the air. The air was thick of dust and dirt from the car scraping against the ground. I sat down next to the police officer's car and was still so surprised that something like this could ever happen to me. The officer came over to me to ask me about what happened. I told him that we were just coming around the corner into knapp and all of a sudden the train derailed. The cop told me to sit and wait for more information. Eventually the rest of the police and firefighters came to the scene. The fire fighters talked to me and asked what happened. Then I got a ride from my friend back to my house. I was so tired after such a long day. So I walked into my room and just jumped onto my bed and passed out.

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