

Assault on a Transit Worker Guide: Full Reporters

An assault on a transit worker occurs when an individual knowingly, without lawful authority or permission, with intent to endanger the safety of any individual, or with a reckless disregard for the safety of human life, interferes with, disables, or incapacitates a transit worker while the transit worker is performing the duties of the transit worker.

FTA's assault on a transit worker definition requires acts that *either* intend to endanger the safety of any individual *or* are done with reckless disregard for the safety of human life.

Assault on a Transit Worker: Event Types

Major Event (reported using S&S-40 form)

Criteria. A major event comprises at least one of the following¹:

- The worker requires immediate transport for medical attention.
- The assault results in a major event such as a derailment or collision.
- (Rail modes) The assault results in a serious injury for which immediate transport from the scene may not occur but that results in one or more of the following:
 - Requires hospitalization for more than 48 hours, commencing within 7 days of the event.
 - Results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes, or nose).
 - Causes severe hemorrhages or nerve, muscle, or tendon damage.
 - Involves an internal organ.
 - Involves second- or third-degree burns, or any burn affecting more than 5 percent of body surface.

Examples

- A transit rider strikes a station agent with a metal bar. The station agent is transported away from the scene for medical attention.
- A bus operator requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and becomes unruly which interferes with the operator. Operator is transported to medical center for high blood pressure resulting from the event.

Non-major Events (reported using S&S-50 form)

Criterion. The assault on a transit worker does not meet the major event criteria listed above. The transit worker is *not* immediately transported for medical attention; the assault

¹ Assaults resulting in a fatality should be reported as a homicide.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's statutes and regulations for applicable requirements.

does not result in a major event such as a derailment or collision; and the assault does not meet the serious injury criteria noted above for rail modes.

Examples

- A bus operator requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and intentionally spits on the operator, who denies transport for medical attention and resumes service.
- A station agent requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and verbally threatens the agent.

Assault on a Transit Worker: Assault Types

Physical Assault

Definition

An assault on a transit worker in which the attack involves physical contact with the transit worker. This could include any physical contact with the victim from the attacker's body, a weapon, a projectile, or other item.

Examples

- A transit rider strikes a station agent with a metal bar.
- A passenger intentionally spits on a bus operator.
- A passenger intentionally shoves a transit worker.

Non-physical Assault

Definition

An assault on a transit worker in which the attack involves no physical contact with the transit worker. This could include verbal threats, intimidation, harassment, or other interference with a transit worker's duties.

Examples

- A transit rider attempts to strike a supervisor with a metal bar but makes no physical contact.
- A train cleaner accidentally brushes a passenger's foot. The passenger threatens the cleaner with bodily harm. The cleaner is not transported for medical attention.
- A passenger verbally threatens a transit worker.

Reportable Examples by Event Type, Worker, Assault Type, and Location

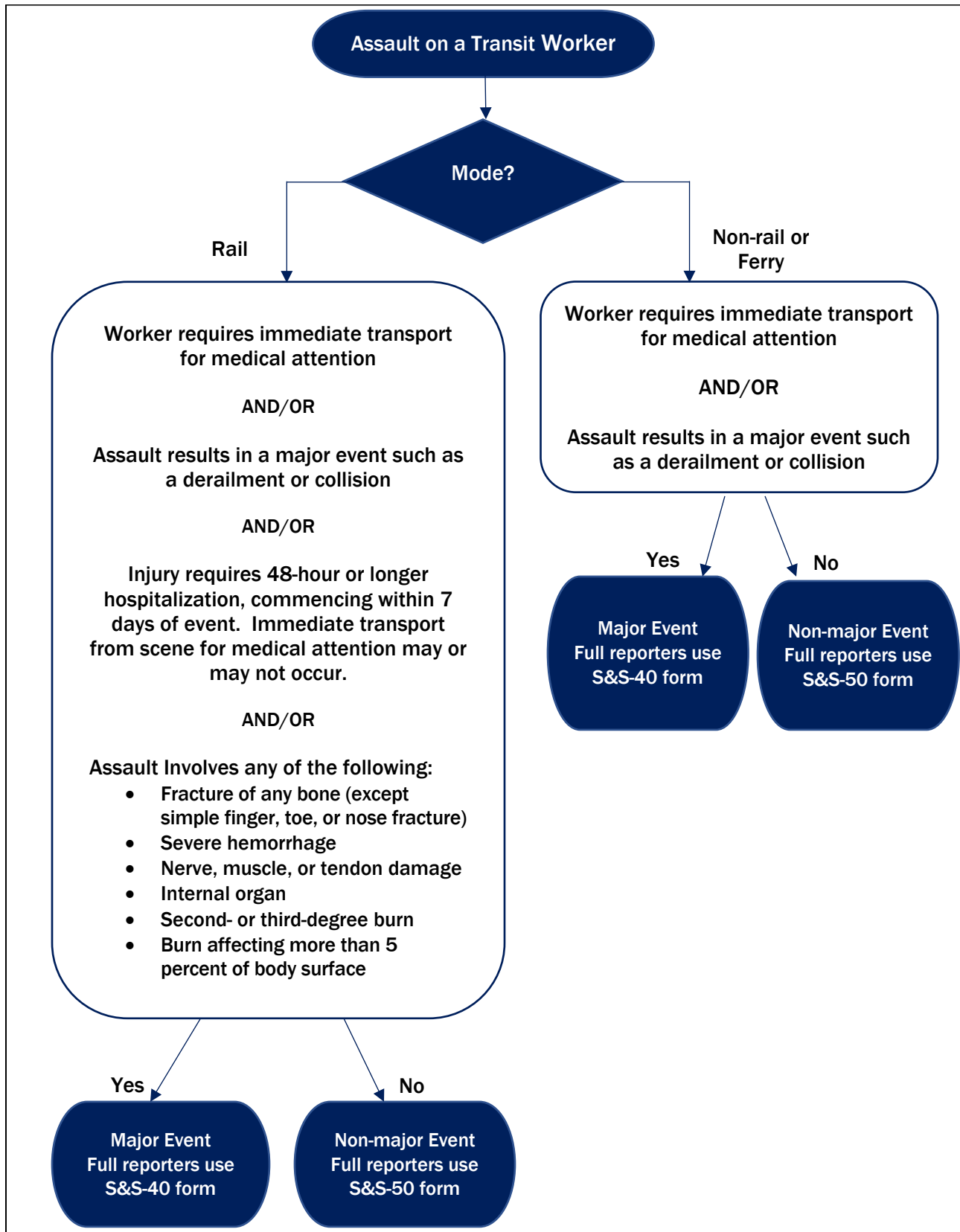
Description	Event Type	Form	Worker (Who)	Assault Type (What)	Location (Where)
A transit rider strikes a station agent with a metal bar. The station agent is transported away from the scene for medical attention.	Major	S&S-40	Other transit worker	Physical	Revenue Facility: Transit Station/Center or Terminal
A bus operator requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and becomes unruly. Operator is transported to medical center for high blood pressure resulting from the event.	Major	S&S-40	Operator	Non-physical	In vehicle/vessel
A bus operator requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and intentionally spits on the operator, who denies transport for medical attention and resumes service.	Non-major	S&S-50	Operator	Physical	In transit vehicle
A station agent requests a passenger pay the fare. The passenger refuses and verbally threatens the agent.	Non-major	S&S-50	Other transit worker	Non-physical	In revenue facility

Additional Resources

- [National Transit Database 2023 Reporting Manual: Full Reporting](#)
- [National Transit Database Safety & Security Policy Manual, February 2024](#)

For support related to reporting assaults on transit workers, please contact your NTD validation analyst or email NTDHelp@dot.gov.

Step 1: Assault on a Transit Worker Event Type Decision Flowchart



Step 2: Assault on a Transit Worker Assault Type Decision Flowchart

