

2nd fatal Amtrak crash in two days

by UPI

LAKELAND, Fla. -- For the second time in two days Tuesday, Amtrak's Silver Star train from Miami to New York was involved in a fatal collision with a vehicle in Florida. The collision occurred as the train approached Tampa, only 13 miles from the site of a crash Monday that killed four people. The northbound train hit a truck and derailed in Plant City. The crash occurred at a crossing with a private road to an industrial facility, Amtrak said. The truck driver was killed, and 19 people were taken to a hospital, WTSP in Tampa Bay reported. On Monday, the Silver Star was northbound from Tampa when it struck a car that deliberately drove around the crossing gate in Lakeland. None of the 161 passengers on board the train was injured. The victims in the car were identified Tuesday as Brian Guy of Lakeland and three women, Whitney Pressnell, Brittany Stickney and Cecerra Benafield, all of Lakeland, the Orlando Sentinel reported. All four were in their late teens or early 20s. Witnesses said they saw the car approach the crossing, pass a car that had stopped for the train and drive around the railroad crossing gate.

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