



# Press

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## Former Sheridan railroad worker gets \$1.2M jury award for injuries

**By Josh Mitchell**

*Staff reporter*

A former Burlington Northern Santa Fe locomotive engineer from Sheridan was awarded \$1.2 million from a Billings District Court jury Friday for injuries he suffered on the job two years ago, according to his attorney.

Kenneth R. Dellos, 54, was operating a locomotive that was pulling 123 coal cars between Sheridan and Forsyth, Mont., when the knuckles that hold the engines together broke apart causing the train to jar and injure Dellos' back, neck and spine, accord-

ing to his attorney, Fredric Bremseth of Minneapolis.

The railroad was found guilty of violating the Federal Employers' Liability Act and the Locomotive Inspection Act, Bremseth said.

Bremseth said BNSF failed to properly maintain its equipment and the railroad track.

BNSF declined comment on the case.

Dellos had worked 30 years for the railroad when the accident happened in April 2006, Bremseth said.

After the accident Dellos was unable to return to work because of his injuries, and an artificial disk was put in his back, Bremseth said.

Bremseth said Dellos received \$840,000 from the jury for wage losses and \$360,000 for pain and suffering.

Dellos was 52 at the time of the injury, Bremseth said.

Bremseth said this is the fourth verdict he has won against BNSF in the past two years that has resulted in awards of more than \$1 million for injured railroad workers.

He said the injuries are preventable, and it is sad that they continue to occur.

He said he hopes the judgments send a message to BNSF corporate leaders to make the equipment safe.

Dellos could not be reached for comment.