



One dead and one seriously injured in a work accident on the port of La Rochelle



The accident occurred at the commercial port of La Rochelle. © Radio France - Julien Fleury

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A work accident occurred this Friday afternoon at the commercial port of La Rochelle, on the Socomac website. One man lost his life, another worker is seriously injured.

The accident occurred this Friday in the early afternoon, at the commercial port of La Rochelle, on the site of the Socomac cereal group, a subsidiary of the Soufflet group. Several workers, **employees of the Saintais subcontractor A6 Services**, worked on a grain conveyor belt. They were installing hoists, a preparatory operation for a repair intervention scheduled for Monday.

Around 12:50 p.m., the counterweight of a ton used to stretch the conveyor band detached. Below, it came to rest across a footbridge where two A6 Services workers were positioned. **A man in his sixties was struck and lost his life.** Another worker was ejected over the railing, He suffers serious injuries in his fall, especially in his back.

25 firefighters responded at the scene of the accident, to take care of the victims and establish a security perimeter. **Police and labor inspectorate also went to the scene.** The La Rochelle prosecutor's office was seized.

"A psychological support unit has been set up at the Maison du port to support colleagues and witnesses of this tragedy," says the mayor of La Rochelle, Thibaut Guiraud, who specifies that *"the City remains attentive to the situation and stands by all those affected by this tragedy"*.

On the Socomac website, the last fatal work accident occurred in December 2015. A 29-year-old man lost his life while moving a nacelle. More recently, in October 2023, a 20-year-old maintenance agent lost his life while working in one of the grain silos of the Sica Atlantique group in La Rochelle.