

Protester run over by train, loses legs

CONCORD (UPI) — As his wife and son watched, the leader of a group protesting U.S. arms shipments to Central America was run down by a weapons train he and others were trying to stop, losing both legs.

S. Brian Willson, 45, a member of Nuremberg Action, was in critical condition late Tuesday following eight hours of surgery at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek. The train severed one leg and the other was amputated Tuesday night.

Willson, a Vietnam veteran who once fasted for 47 days on the Capitol steps, was one of several protesters who were on the tracks Tuesday at the 13,000-acre Concord Naval Weapons Station, 40 miles east of San Francisco, witnesses said.

A demonstration, co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz-based Peace Action Team, will be held in front of the County Governmental Center at noon Thursday to protest U.S. actions against Nicaragua and Willson's accident.

The Nuremberg group claims the huge military storage facility serves as a transfer point for weapons destined for shipment to Nicaragua and elsewhere in Central America.

Willson, of San Rafael and formerly Chelsea, Vt., and another protester were to begin a 40-day "Fast for Life and Peace Movement" at the military base.

The base commander, Capt. Lonnie Cagle, termed the incident "an unfortunate accident."