

# Burger Pit Stop Lands Train Workers in Trouble



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

A Rail Runner crew stopped near where the train crosses Santa Fe's St. Michael's Drive and walked to a nearby Blake's Lotaburger to pick up a meal.

BY MARK OSWALD  
*Of the Journal*

SANTA FE — The Blake's Lotaburger on Santa Fe's St. Michael's Drive doesn't have a drive-through window, but it does have railroad tracks nearby.

That made it convenient for the Rail Runner commuter train's crew to make an unscheduled stop Monday to pick up some burgers.

As a result, three Rail Runner workers have been disciplined — although Rail Runner officials say there were no passengers on the train, schedules weren't affected and the train didn't block traffic on busy St. Mike's while it was stopped.

"That said, it's still against our policy to stop at nondesignated locations," Rail Run-

ner spokeswoman Augusta Meyers said.

The train crosses St. Mike's just east of the Lotaburger at 2004 St. Mike's. On Monday, the train slowed to a halt after crossing to the south side of the street, and workers walked over for a fix from the New Mexico chain famous for its green chile cheeseburgers.

Dewey Cave, interim director of Mid-Region Council of Governments, and Meyers said the train was on a southbound "deadhead" trip toward a median on Interstate 25 just outside Santa Fe where there is a siding — extra tracks where a train can stay to let another pass or to make another run.

"The crew took time during their break to pick up a meal from a fast food restaurant," Cave said.

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