

~ Accident with human death caused by the collision between the train and a pedestrian,
at the class 4 level crossing ~

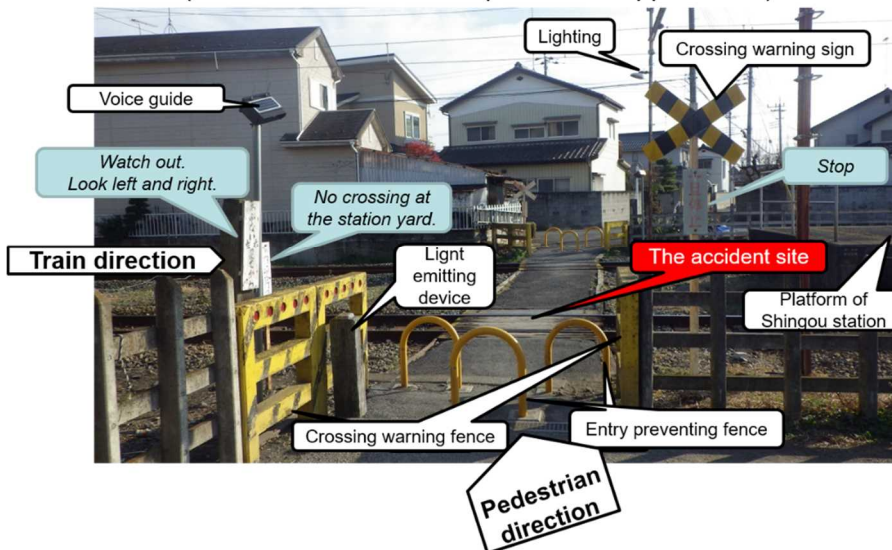
Railway operator : Chichibu Railway Co., Ltd.
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : At about 16:52, December 19, 2018
 Location : Hanyu No.22 level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning machine, in the premises of Shingo station of Chichibu Main Line, Hanyu City, Saitama Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

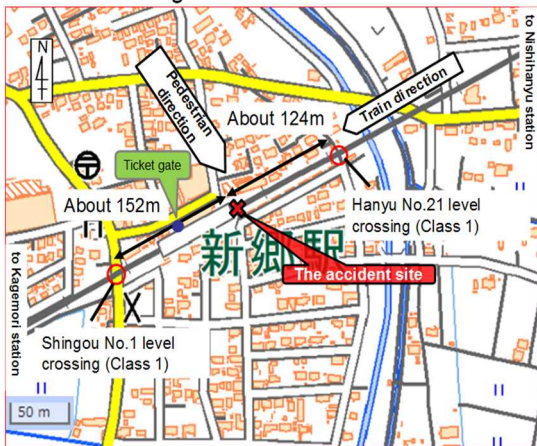
While the outbound 1545 train, started from Hanyu station bound for Kagemori station of Chichibu Main Line, was running in the premises of Shingo station at a velocity of about 43 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a pedestrian entering Hanyu No.22 level crossing, then sounded a whistle and applied an emergency brake immediately, but the train hit the pedestrian.

The pedestrian was dead in the accident.

<The situation of Hanyu No.22 level crossing>
(from the side where the pedestrian approached)



<Schematic drawing of the area around the accident site>



<The view from the vicinity of crossing warning fence to the train> (The photo was taken at the same time of the next day of the accident occurrence)



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

- It is highly probable that the accident occurred as the train hit the pedestrian because the pedestrian entered Hanyu No.22 level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, in the situation that the train was approaching.
- It could not be determined why the pedestrian entered the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the pedestrian was dead in the accident.

<EXPECTED MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

- The class 4 level crossing, that is not equipped with the automatic barrier machine nor the road warning device, should be abolished or should be equipped with the level crossing protection device.
- The length of the road crossing Hanyu No.22 level crossing was long as 19.0 m due to crossing two railway tracks, *i.e.*, the up and down tracks, and the level crossing has been designated in the route that the schoolchildren should walk to elementally school, and the case that a pedestrian crossed just before the train passed the level crossing had been reported in the "report on the shivered and startled case" of Chichibu Railway Co., Ltd. Therefore, it is necessary for the relevant persons such as the railway operators, Hanyu City, the regional inhabitants, etc., to discuss on the abolishment or the preparation of the level crossing protection devices for the concerned level crossing, decide the policy as fast as possible, and promote the concrete measures, from the viewpoint to prevent the recurrence of the accident, considering the occurrence of the concerned accident.
- It is considered that it is one of the dangerous factors against the occurrence of new accident, that Hanyu No.22 level crossing has been designated in the route where the schoolchildren should walk to elementally school. It should be avoided as much as possible to designate the class 4 level crossing in the route that the schoolchildren should walk to elementally school, because it is considered that there is the case that it is difficult for the children to anticipate the dangers in the level crossing because children are in the developmental stage of the intellectual and physical abilities.
- The class 1 level crossing neighboring to Hanyu No.22 level crossing is in the status as been judged as the level crossing having high danger for the traffic accident because there is no sidewalk, and there is heavy traffic, etc. Therefore, in case the discussion on Hanyu No.22 level crossing is anticipated to need long term, or in case the policy to abolish Hanyu No.22 level crossing is decided, it is considered that the relevant organization such as Chichibu Railway Co., Ltd., the road administrators, *i.e.*, Saitama Prefecture and Hanyu City, who are related with the concerned level crossing, are required to study on the improvement of the traffic environment in around the concerned level crossing and to implement measures, including the preparation of the sidewalk in the neighboring class 1 level crossing and the road connecting to the class 1 level crossing, from the viewpoint to ensure the safety of the route where the schoolchildren should walk to elementally school.