

"The accident with human death caused by the collision of the train and the public, occurred at the class 3 level crossing"

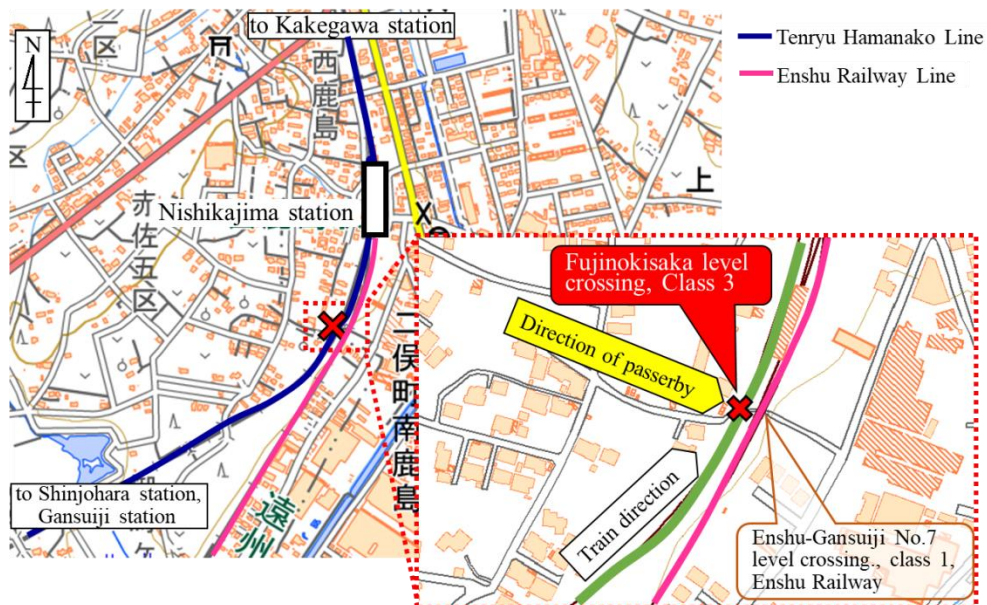
Railway operator : Tenryu Hamanako Railroad Co. Ltd.
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : About 09:24, December 2, 2019
 Location : Tounokisaka level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device but without crossing gate, in the premises of Nishikajima station, single track, Tenryu Hamanako Line, Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture.

<SUMMARY>

On Monday, December 2, 2019, while the inbound Local 320 train, started from Shinjohara station bound for Tenryu-Futamata station, Tenryu Hamanako Line of Tenryu Hamanako Railroad Co. Ltd., was running in the premises of Nishikajima station at the velocity of about 55 km/h, the driver of the train noticed the passerby entering Tounokisaka level crossing, the class 3 level crossing, then applied the emergency brake and sounded the whistle immediately, but the train collided with the passerby.

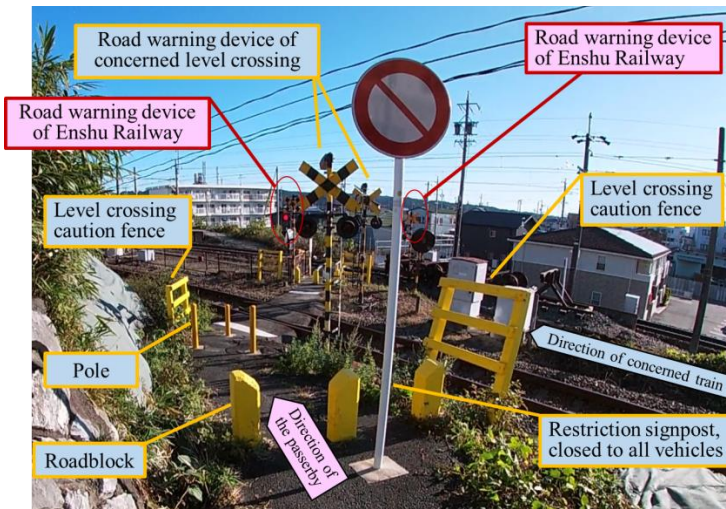
The concerned passerby was dead in the accident.

<Map of around the accident site>

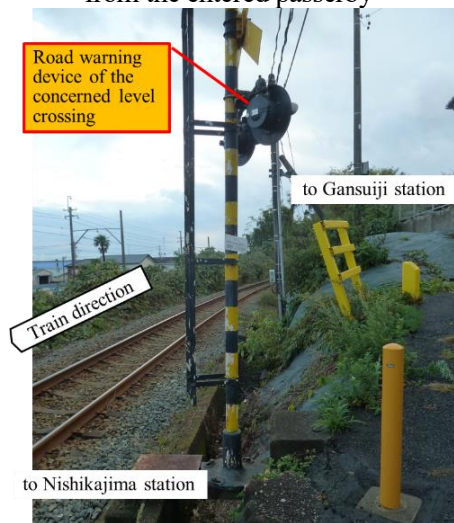


This figure was made using the Geographical Institute Map, Electrical Country Web, of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

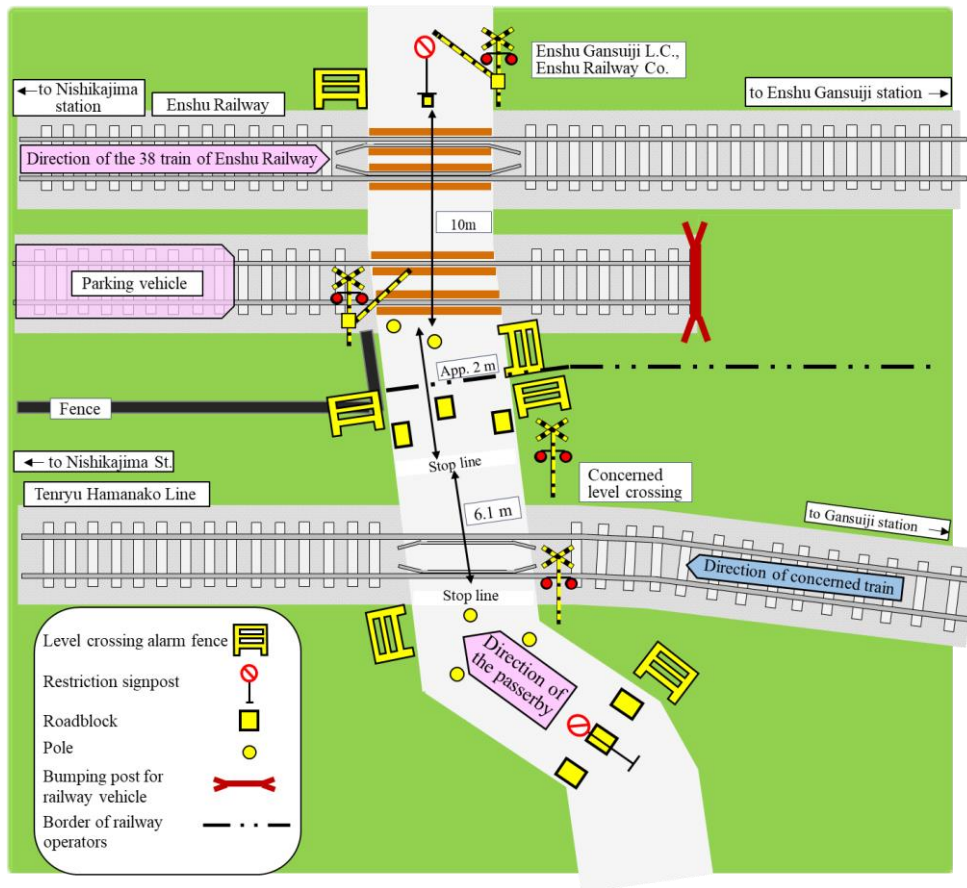
<Status of Tounokisaka level crossing viewed from the entered passerby>



<Perspective of the train viewed from the entered passerby>



<Outline of Tounokisaka level crossing>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is highly probable that the concerned accident was caused as that the passerby entered Tounokisaka level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device but without crossing gate, in the situation that the road warning device had been operating

responded to the approaching train, and collided with the concerned train.

As for the reason why the the concerned passerby entered the concerned level crossing in the situation that the road warning device had been operating responded to the approaching train, it is somewhat likely that the concerned passerby misunderstood the situation because the level crossing protection device of the class 1 level crossing of the other railway operator, located ahead of the concerned level crossing, started its operation earlier. In addition, it is somewhat likely that the concerned passerby did not notice the operation of the road warning device in the concerned level crossing related with the external factors such as the weather, the structural factors of the concerned level crossing, and physical factors of the concerned passerby, but it could not be determined, because the concerned passerby was dead.

<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

The concerned level crossing was the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device, but located close to the level crossing protection device for the class 1 level crossing of the other company. Then, it is somewhat likely that the attention of passersby was tend to watch on the level crossing protection device of the class 1 level crossing of the other company, when the the road warning device of the concerned level crossing and the level crossing protection device of the other company operated one after another. Therefore, it is desirable for the concerned company to install the crossing gate for the concerned level crossing same as the neighboring level crossing of the other company.

In addition, it is desirable for the concerned company and the road administrator, *i.e.*, Hamamatsu City, as the measures until to install the crossing gate, to exchange the red flash lamps to the omnidirectional type lamps in order to improve the visibility, to excite attention of the passersby approaching to the level crossing, by installed the signboard for attention before the level crossing, and to implement educational activities for the user of the level crossing.

[Details can be obtained by the railway accident investigation report in the home page of the Japan Transport Safety Board, i.e., http://www.mlit.go.jp/jtsb](http://www.mlit.go.jp/jtsb)