

"The accident with casualty by the collision of train and two pedestrians occurred in the class 4 level crossing"

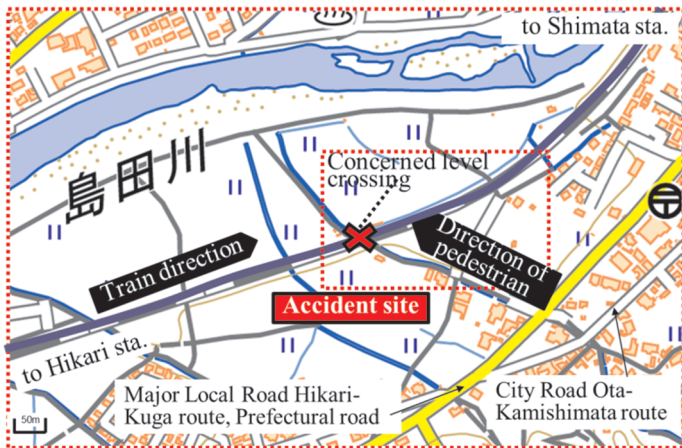
Railway operator : Japan Freight Railway Company
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : About 15:29, October 18, 2020
 Location : Around 397,157 m from Kobe station, Hachioji No.2 level crossing, class 4 level crossing without crossing gate nor road warning device, between Hikari station and Shimata station, double track, San-yo Line, Hikari City, Yamaguchi Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

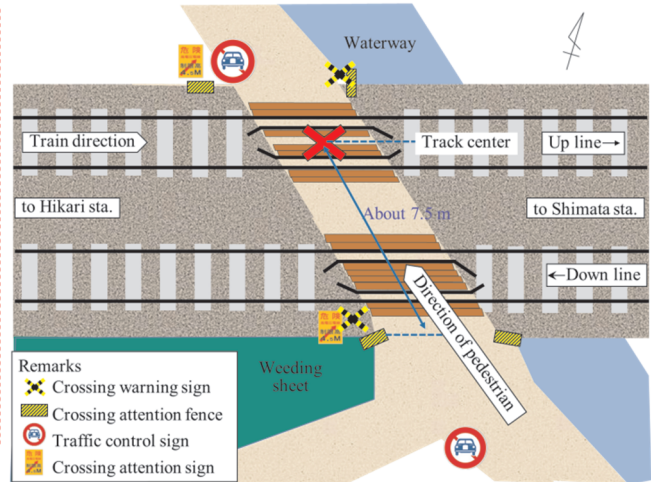
On Sunday, October 18, 2020, while the inbound 2072 train, started from Fukuoka Freight Terminal station bound for Niigata Freight Terminal station of Japan Freight Railway Company, was running between Hikari station and Shimata station at the velocity of about 70 km/h, the driver of the train noticed two pedestrians entering Hachioji No.2 level crossing, class 4 level crossing, from right, and applied the emergency brake, but the train collided with the pedestrians.

The two pedestrians were dead in this accident.

<Map of the accident site and periphery>



<Hachioji No.2 level crossing>

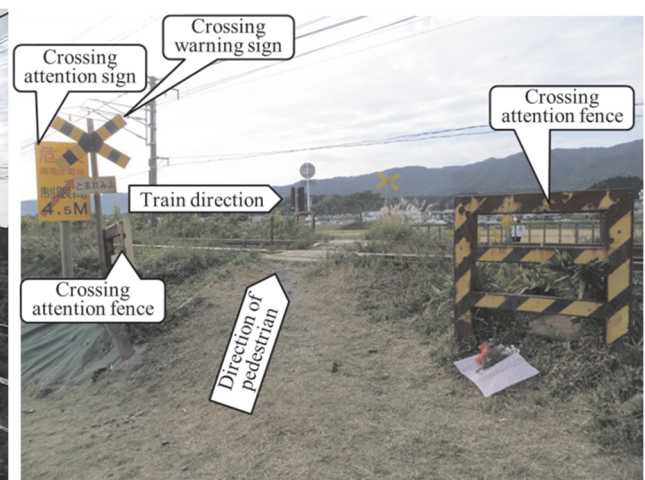


* This figure was made using the Geographical Institute Map, Electrical Country Web, of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

<Sighted status of the train from pedestrians>



<Status of Hachioji No.2 level crossing>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

The JTTSB concludes that the probable cause of this accident was certain that two pedestrians entered Hachioji No.2 level crossing, the class 4 level crossing without crossing gate nor road warning device, in the status that the train was approaching and collided with the train.

It could not be determined the precise situation why two pedestrians entered the level crossing concerned in the status that the train was approaching, because the two pedestrians were dead.

<SAFETY ACTIONS>

It is considered as necessary for the relevant parties, such as the railway operator, Hikari City, the regional residents, etc., to promote the discussion toward the abolition of the level crossing concerned or the preparation of the level crossing protection device, to decide the policy in early stage, and take the concrete approach. Furthermore, it can be considered to utilize the village road passing under the railway track.

Besides, it is desirable to study the measures such as to add the attention boards against the persons entering the level crossing from the major local road Hikari-Kuga route, prefectural road, and make widely known that the entering persons should stop once just before the level crossing and confirm the safety, untill above measures are taken .

Details can be obtained by the railway accident investigation report in the website of the Japan Transport Safety Board, i.e., <https://www.mlit.go.jp/jtsb>