

"The train derailment accident due to collided with automobile halting on the railway track"

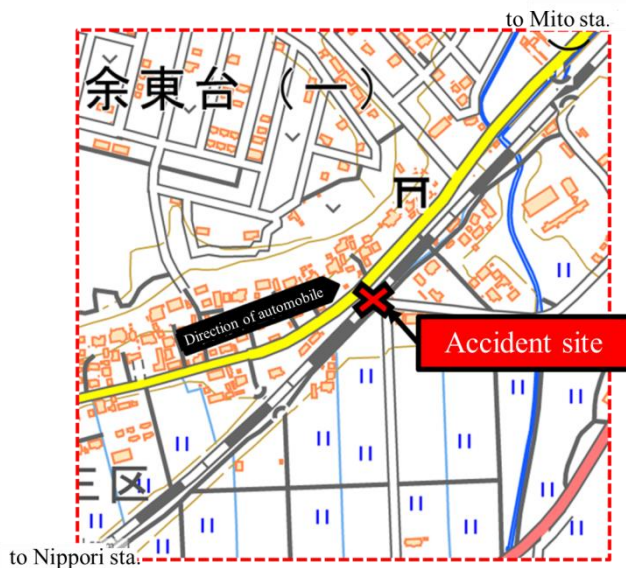
Railway operator : East Japan Railway Co. Ltd.
 Accident type : Train derailment
 Date and time : About 00:07, March 26, 2021
 Location : Around 66,689 m from Nippori station, between Tsuchiura station and Kandatsu station, double track, Joban Line, Tsuchiura City, Ibaraki Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

On Friday, March 26, 2021, while the outbound Local 1269M train, started from Shinagawa station bound for Katsuta station of East Japan Railway Co., Ltd., was running between Tsuchiura station and Kandatsu station at the velocity of about 97 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a standard motor vehicle on the down line track halting as crossed. The driver applied the emergency brake immediately but it was too late, the train collided with the standard motor vehicle. The train stopped after ran for about 267 m as dragging the standard motor vehicle. All two axles in the front bogie of the first vehicle derailed to right in this accident.

There were 66 passengers and two train crews boarded on the train, but no one was injured.

Map of the accident site and periphery



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

Derailed status of the train



Damaged status of the automobile



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is highly probable that the running train collided with the standard motor vehicle which invaded into the track and was halting on the railway track, and right wheels of all two axles of the front bogie of the first vehicle ran onto the rail and derailed to right side of the track, because the standard motor vehicle got into the space between lower left part of the front surface of the first vehicle and the railway track.

It is probable that the standard motor vehicle had been invaded into the railway track because the standard motor vehicle broke through the net fence and invaded into the railway track and became as could not be moved, because the driver of the standard motor vehicle mistook the handling operation in the situation that the driver could not drive calmly in order to escape from the pursuit by the police.

<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT RECURRENCE>

It is desirable for the road administrator to take measures such as to install the rumble strips to let known by sound and vibration, the rivets on the road surface, etc., or the guiding eye signs clearly indicated the road shapes, etc., for the place where the driver of automobile should pay attention as to enable the safe driving, in order to prevent accident from happening, because this accident was caused by that the standard motor vehicle broke through the net fence and invaded into the railway track. Furthermore, it is desirable to take measures to install the protection fences stronger than the net fences, i.e., the guard rail, etc., for the place where invasion of automobile into track was feared.

In addition, it is desirable for the railway operator to confirm the status of the facilities, implement discussions with the road administrators depending on the necessity, and apply to install the devices to prevent invasion of automobiles into the railway track.

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>