

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator	West Japan Railway Company
Accident type	Railway Accident with Casualty
Date and time	About 01:46, February 11, 2017
Location	In the premises of Itozaki station, San-yo Line, Mihara City, Hiroshima Prefecture

SUMMARY

On February 11, 2017, a train watchman and five workers etc., engaging in the construction work, in the premises of Itozaki station, San-yo Line of West Japan Railway Company, took refuge from the approaching train, the inbound High Speed Freight 58 train, composed of 25 vehicles started from Tosu freight terminal station bound for Osaka freight terminal station of Japan Freight Railway Company, at about 01:45. The leader of the construction work noticed an abnormal sound when the train had passed by the place for refuge, and then he checked the situation and found that the train watchman had been fallen on the track.

On the other hand, the driver of the train noticed the staffs working ahead while the train had passed Itozaki station at about 68 km/h on schedule at 01:46, but he continued train operation as he thought that the staffs had finished evacuation because he had confirmed the white light waving laterally. After that, he stopped the train obeying the instruction from the train dispatcher after the train had passed Onomichi station.

The train watchman was dead in the accident.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is highly probable that the train watchman in charge of the construction work to replace insulators contacted with the approaching train because he had been standing to watch trains at the position too close to the neighboring track where the railway track was not closed in the accident.

It is somewhat likely that the train watchman was standing to watch trains at the position too close to the neighboring track because he was sure that the watching position was in the safe place. It is somewhat likely that this situation was related with the complex track shape in around the accident site because the accident had occurred on the turnout. However, it could not be determined the reason because the train watchman was dead in the accident.