

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

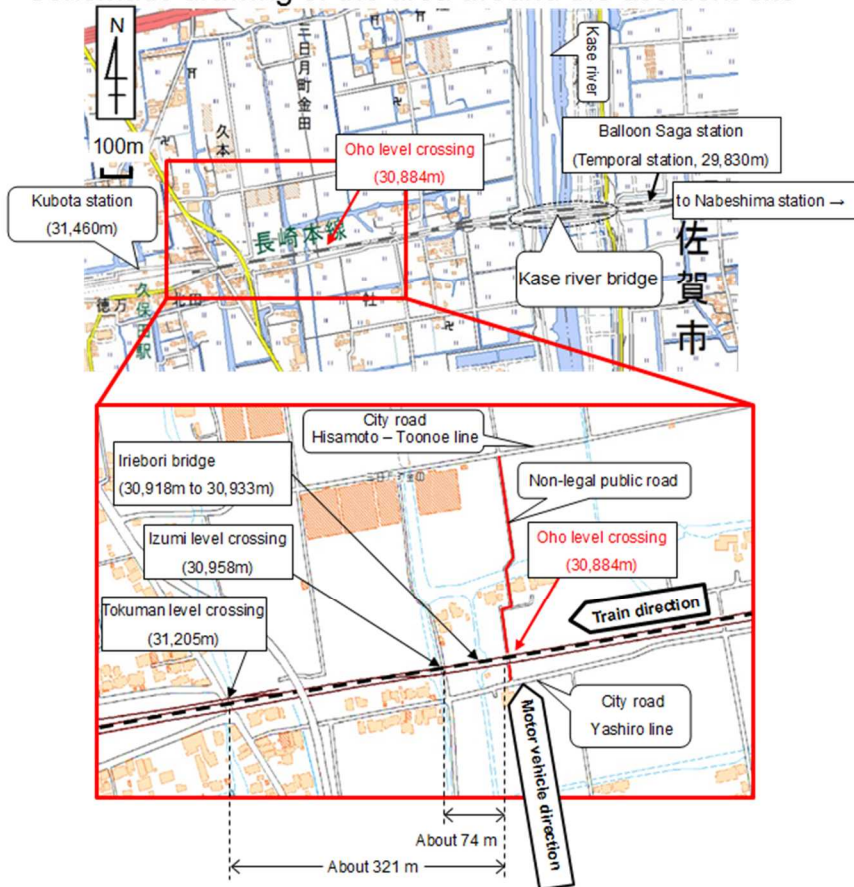
Railway operator : Kyushu Railway Company
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : At about 17:51, June 16, 2018
 Location : Oho level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, at around 30,884 m from the origin in Tosu station, between Nabeshima station and Kubota station, double track, Nagasaki Line, Ogi City, Saga Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

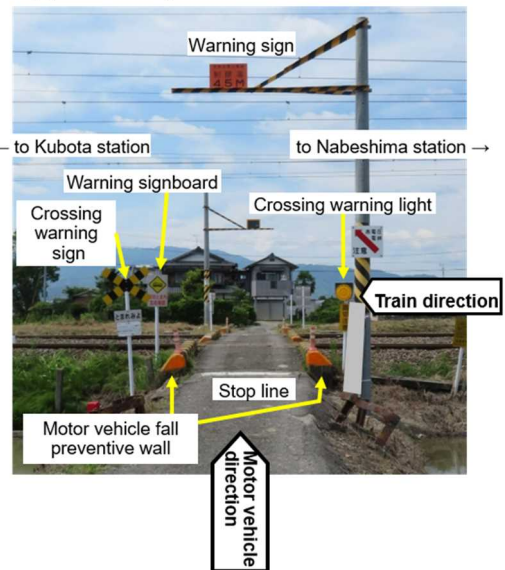
While the outbound Local 2869M train, started from Tosu station bound for Hizen-Yamaguchi station, was running between Nabeshima station and Kubota station at a velocity of about 84 km/h, the driver of the train noticed an automobile entering Oho level crossing, then the driver of the train applied an emergency brake and sounded a whistle, but the train collided with the automobile.

The driver of the automobile was dead in the accident.

< Schematic drawing of the area around the accident site >



< The situation of Oho level crossing >
(from the side where the motor vehicle approached)

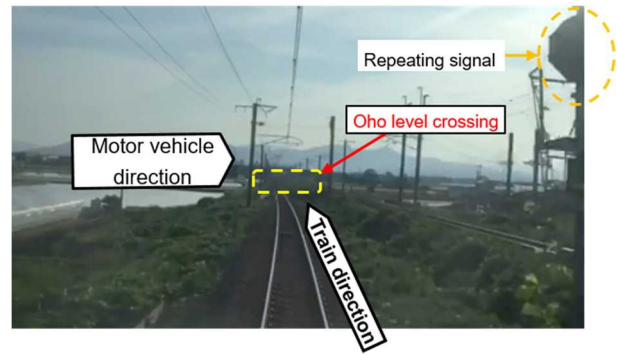


※ This figure was quoted from the map (Digital Land Web) published by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, and revised.

< The view from Oho level crossing to Nabeshima station >



< The view from the down train to Oho level crossing (from about 421 m this side) >



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

- It is highly probable that the accident occurred as the train collided with the automobile because the automobile entered Oho 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 automobile entered the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the driver of the automobile 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. Four accidents, including the concerned accident, had occurred since 1997 at Oho level crossing, where the passing trains have been operated in high speed in heavy railway traffic, and the crossing road was long as located in the double track section. Therefore, the relevant persons such as the railway operators, the road administrators, the regional inhabitants, etc., are required to discuss on the abolishment or the preparation of the level crossing protection devices, decide the policy as fast as possible, and promote the concrete measures, considering that the concerned level crossing is highly dangerous.
- It is considered that the abolishment or the preparation of the level crossing protection devices should be implemented for the other class 4 level crossings having the similar dangerous factors as in Oho level crossing, such as high speed of the passing trains, heavy railway traffic, long level crossing road, etc. Therefore, it is necessary for the relevant persons such as the railway operators, the road administrators, the regional inhabitants, etc., to implement discussions toward the measures, decide the policy as fast as possible, and promote the concrete measures.