

~ Accident that the train collided with a bicycle at the class 4 level crossing and a passerby riding the bicycle was dead ~

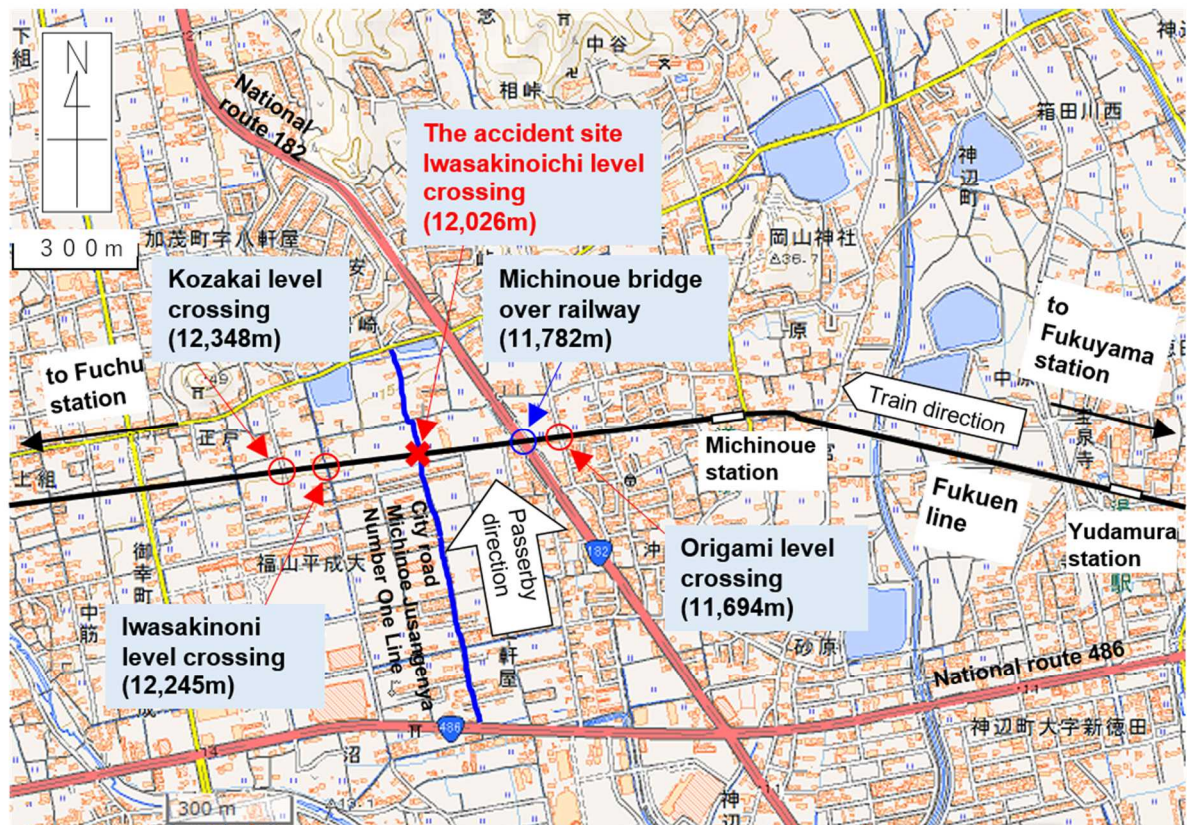
Railway operator : West Japan Railway Company  
 Accident type : Level crossing accident  
 Date and time : At about 15:37, September 27, 2018  
 Location : Iwasakinoichi level crossing, class 4 level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, at around 12,026 m from the origin in Fukuyama station, between Michinoue station and Managura station, single track, Fukuen Line, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

While the outbound 253M train, started from Fukuyama station bound for Fuchu station, was running between Michinoue station and Managura station at a velocity of about 72 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a bicycle entering Iwasakinoichi level crossing, class 4 level crossing, then applied an emergency brake immediately, but the train collided with the bicycle.

The passerby, an elementary schoolchild, riding the bicycle was dead in the accident.

<Schematic drawing of the area around the accident site>



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



<The situation of Iwasakinoichi level crossing>  
(from the side where the person approached)



<The view from the dot line of Iwasakinoichi level crossing to Michinoue station>  
(The view is from a height of 1.0 m on the dot line)



<The view from the down train to Iwasakinoichi level crossing (from 200 m this side)>



### <PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is certain that the accident occurred as the train collided with a bicycle because the passerby riding bicycle entered Iwasakinoichi 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 passerby riding bicycle entered the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the passerby was dead in the accident, although it is somewhat likely that the passerby did not recognize the approaching train.

### <EXPECTED MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

(1) Necessity of the traffic safety education on the class 4 level crossing based on the viewpoint of the children.

The passersby, who are crossing level crossing road, are requested to confirm the safety against the approaching train certainly, because ensuring of the safety in the class 4 level crossing, without the automatic barrier machine nor the road warning device, depends on the attentiveness of the passersby. However, it is probable that there is the case as it is difficult for the children to anticipate dangers in the level crossing, because the children are in the developmental stage of the intellectual and physical abilities. Therefore, the class 4 level crossing is the dangerous level crossing for the children.

It is considered that it is effective to implement the education on the traffic safety in the level crossing in cooperation with the police, the day nurseries, schools, the children's centers, the relevant private organizations, etc., as one of the participative, experiential and practical education for the traffic safety, intended for the children, the parents nursing their children, etc., prescribed in the guideline to decide the action plan based on the Act for Promoting Measures to Support Rearing Next Generation. It is necessary to implement educations on the dangers in the class 4 level crossing and the necessity to confirm approaching train after once stopped before entering the level crossing, based on the viewpoint of the children.

It is important that the relevant persons comprehend the actual situation of the class 4 level crossing in the school district of the elementary school, etc., and implement such traffic safety educations responding the actual situation of each region. In addition, it is necessary to implement the education, as the children can understand and can apply to their actual actions, that they should stop once before the level crossing and confirm left and right of the track by their own eyes, and when they find the figure of the train, etc., it is dangerous to cross the level crossing before the train passes the level crossing even though the train was found far away, based on the characteristics of the railway system such as that the trains cannot be stopped in a short distance as the automobiles, etc.

Based on these situations, referring the characteristics of the children, it is desirable to guide the children to bypass to the neighboring class 1 level crossing or the pedestrian overpass, etc., and not to pass through the class 4 level crossing alone.

(2) Necessity of the measures in the region where the population is increasing.

The class 4 level crossing, without the automatic barrier machine nor the road warning device, should be abolished or should be equipped the level crossing protection device. As the class 4 level crossing located in the region where the population is increasing or the increase of future population is anticipated such as the peripheral region of the concerned level crossing, generally has a possibility to increase traffic passing through the level crossing. Therefore, it is considered that it is required to solve the status of the class 4 level crossing by the abolishment of the level crossing, *i.e.*, the abolishment and integration or the upgrade of the level crossing by the introduction of the automatic barrier machine and the road warning device.

Therefore, it is desirable for the relevant organization such as the railway operators, the local governments, etc., in cooperation with each other, to promote actively the measures to build up understandings on the necessity of measures and the cooperation including the regional inhabitants, and solve the situation of the class 4 level crossing earlier, by comprehending the effects of the changes of the regional environment to the population and the traffic flow, and study the synthetic measures including the measures to improve safety and convenience such as the preparation of the sidewalk in the neighboring class 1 level crossing or the detours, for the class 4 level crossing where increase of the passersby of the level crossing is anticipated.