

"The accident with human death caused by the collision of the train and the passerby of the level crossing, occurred at the class 3 level crossing"

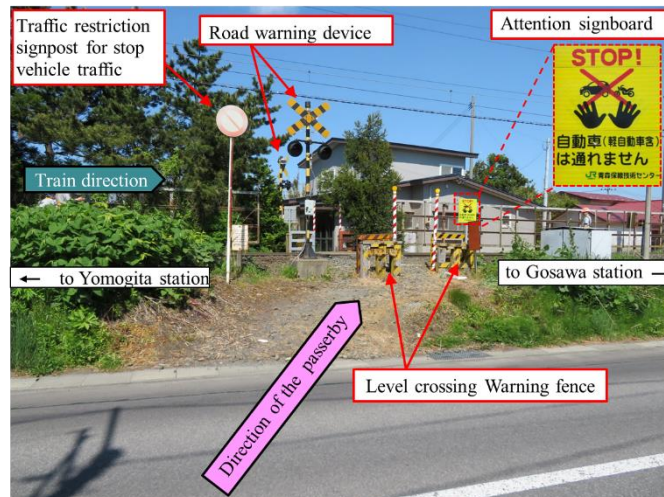
Railway operator : East Japan Railway Company  
 Accident type : Level crossing accident  
 Date and time : About 15:59, May 22, 2019  
 Location : Sasaki level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device but without crossing gate, at around 20,403 m from the origin in Aomori station, between Yomogita station and Gousawa station, single track, Tsugaru Line, Yomogita Village, Tsugaru County, Aomori Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

While the outbound 339M train, started from Aomori station bound for Kanita station, Tsugaru Line of East Japan Railway Company, was running between Yomogita station and Gousawa station in the cruising operation at the velocity of about 73 km/h, the driver of the train noticed the abnormal sound when passed Sasaki level crossing, the class 3 level crossing, then applied the emergency brake to stop the train. After the train stopped, the driver checked around the concerned level crossing and found the passerby fallen in the track side.

The concerned passerby was dead in the accident.

<Status of Sasaki level crossing viewed from the entered side of the passerby>

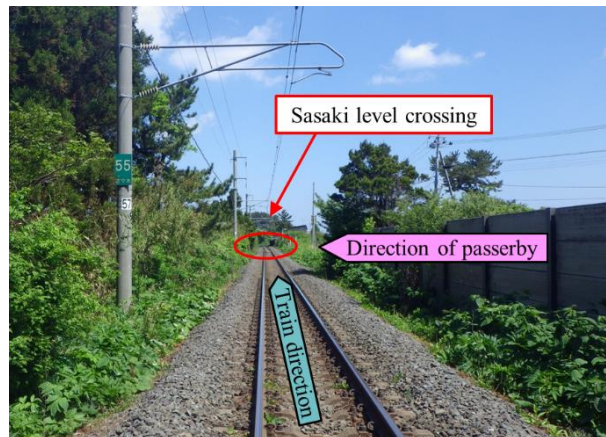


<Rough map of around the accident site>



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

<Perspective of Sasaki level crossing viewed from the outbound train>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is probable that the concerned accident was caused by that the passerby collided with the concerned train because the passerby entered Sasaki level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with the road warning device, in the situation that the road warning device had been operating responded to the approaching train.

It could not be determined the reason why the passerby entered the level crossing in the situation that the road warning device had been operating responded to the approaching train, because the concerned passerby was dead, although it is somewhat likely that the passerby did not notice the approaching train.

<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

It is desirable for East Japan Railway Co., to implement integration and abolishment or the preparation of level crossing protection device of the concerned level crossing in order to aim further improvement of the safety in the concerned level crossing. Here, when implementing the above measures, it is desirable to make an effort to obtain understandings and cooperation of the related parties such as the users, etc., considering the using status of the concerned level crossing, in addition, as the measures to improve safety except for the integration and the abolishment or the installation of the crossing gate, until to implement the above measures, it is desirable to study and implement the measures for the safety such as to change the red flash lamps of the road warning device to the omnidirectional type lamps, or to install the signboard to call attention, in order to make the passersby of the level crossing easy to notice the existence of the level crossing and excite their attention.

<MEASURES TAKEN AFTER THE ACCIDENT>

The measures taken by East Japan Railway Co., for the concerned level crossing were as follows.

- (i) Installed the weeding sheets to the grassy area in around the right side entrance, in order to improve the perspective of the train from right side of the level crossing road.
- (ii) Changed the red flash lamps to the omnidirectional lamps, in order to improve the visibility of the red flash lamps for the passersby of the level crossing.
- (iii) Installed the signboards to call attention printed as "stop, pay attention to the level crossing" in both sides of the concerned level crossing, in order to promote passersby of the level crossing to stop before the level crossing and confirm the safety.

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>