

"The accident that the train collided with the fallen trees and derailed"

Railway operator : East Japan Railway Company Ltd.
 Accident type : Train derailment
 Date and time : About 21:35, July 5, 2021
 Location : Around 8,465 m from Ichinoseki station, between Mataki station and Rikuchu-Kanzaki station, single track, Ofunato Line, Ichinoseki City, Iwate Prefecture

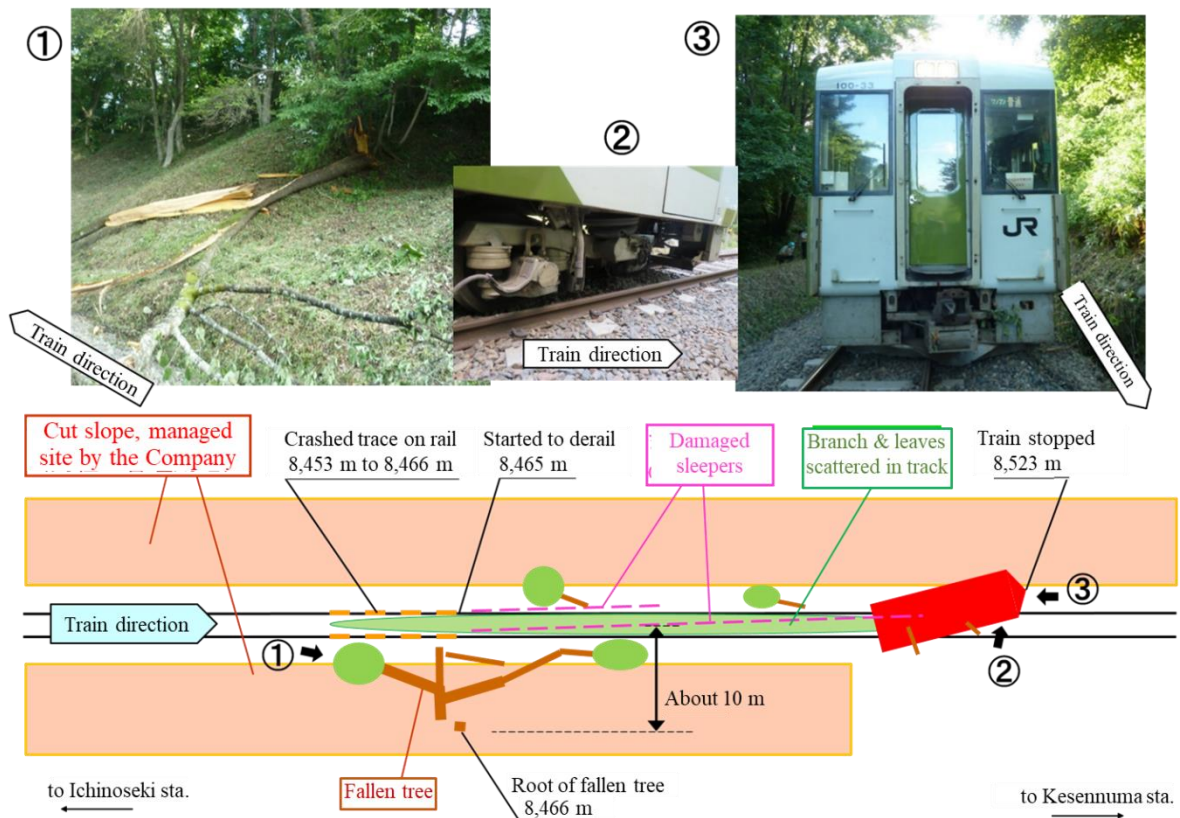
<SUMMARY>

On Monday, July 5, 2021, the outbound 343D train, one-man operated and composed of one vehicle started from Ichinoseki station bound for Kesenuma station of Ofunato Line of the East Japan Railway Company, departed from Mataki station on schedule at 21:32.

The driver of the train, while the train was running in the section between Mataki station and Rikuchu-Kanzaki station in the dark circumference at the velocity of about 67 km/h, found the fallen trees in ahead and operated the emergency brake, but it was too late, the train collided with the fallen trees and all 2 axles in the front bogie derailed to left side of the travelling direction.

There were five passengers and a train crew, *i.e.*, the driver, boarded on the train, but no one was injured.

General situation of the accident site and periphery



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is highly probable that the train ran onto the fallen trees, and derailed as being involved the fallen trees, in this accident, because the train collided with the fallen trees which had been invaded the structure gauge and hindered the route of the train.

It is highly probable that the fallen trees had been invaded the structure gauge and hindered the route of the train, because the trunk of the tree, which had been grown up in the cut slope in right side of the direction of the train, broke at around the root where hollowed partly due to the progress of the deterioration, and collapsed toward the railway track.

Status of the root of the fallen tree and surroundings



<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT RECURRENCE>

It is considered as necessary to investigate more precisely on the part between trunks for the case of the trees as plural trunks grew up from the single root same as the concerned fallen tree, and to review the manual such as to add the case of the concerned fallen tree, etc., and let known well.

It is desirable to conduct the precise investigation by the hammering test using wooden hammer or the intrusion of steel rod, etc., depending to the necessity, in addition to the visual observation by the good use of the specialist of the trees, in the management of trees.

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>