

~ Accident with human death caused by the collision between the train and a light motor truck, at the class 3 level crossing ~

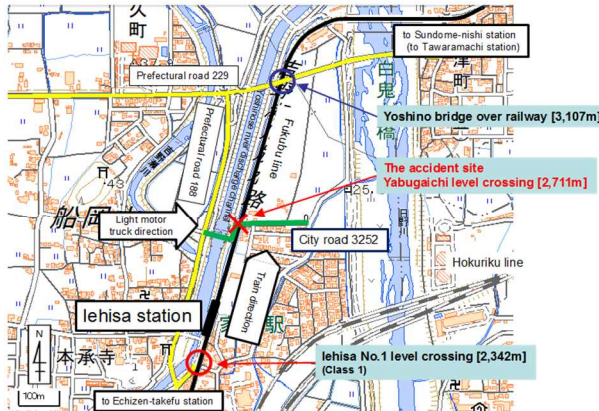
Railway operator : Fukui Railway Co., Ltd.
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : At about 11:32, April 13, 2019
 Location : Yabugaichi level crossing, class 3 level crossing without automatic barrier machine but equipped with road warning device, at around 2,711 m from the origin in Echizen-Takefu station, between Iehisa station and Sundome-Nishi station, single track, Fukubu Line, Echizen City, Fukui Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

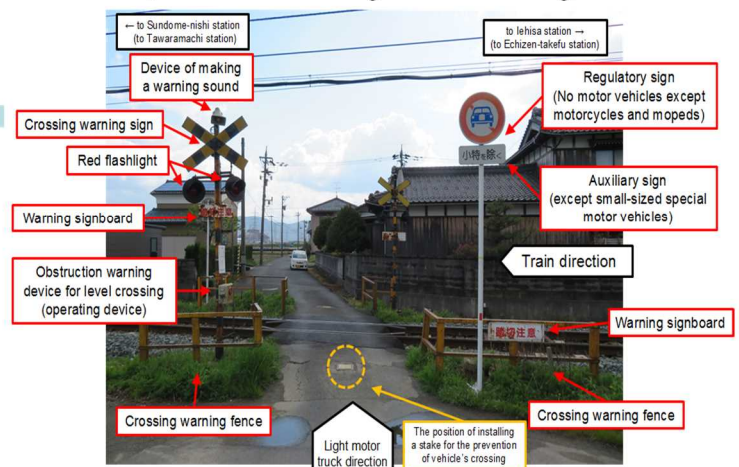
While the outbound Local 1125 train, started from Echizen-Takefu station bound for Tawaramachi station of Fukubu Line, Fukui Railway Co., Ltd., was running between Iehisa station and Sundome-Nishi station at a velocity of about 45 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a light motor truck entering Yabugaichi level crossing, then applied an emergency brake immediately and sounded a whistle, but the train collided with the light motor truck.

The driver of the light motor truck was dead in the accident.

< Schematic drawing of the area around the accident site >



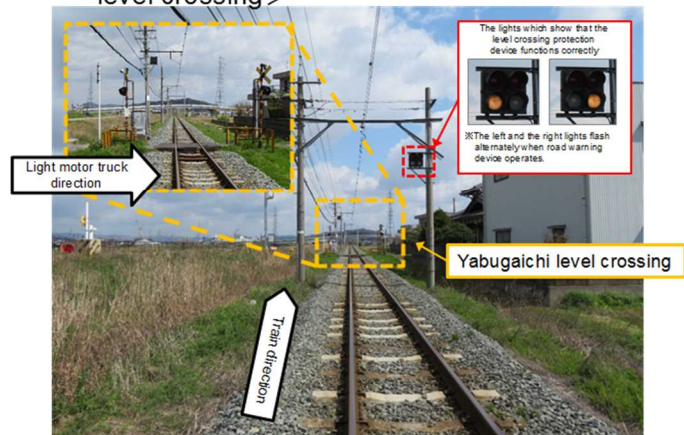
< The situation of Yabugaichi level crossing >



< The view from the side where the light motor truck approached >



< The view from the train to Yabugaichi level crossing >



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

- It is certain that the accident occurred as the train collided with the light motor truck because the light motor truck entered Yabugaichi level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with the road warning device, in the situation that the road warning device was operating as the train was approaching.
- It could not be determined why the light motor truck entered the level crossing while the road warning device was operating because the driver of the light motor truck was dead in the accident, although it is somewhat likely that the driver of the light motor truck did not recognize the approaching train.

<EXPECTED MEASURES TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

- As the concerned accident occurred as the light motor truck entered Yabugaichi level crossing, where the automobile traffic was prohibited by the traffic control, without temporary stop just before the level crossing in the situation that the road warning device had been operating responding to the approaching train, it is required for the passersby of the level crossing to improve their own consciousness for the safe driving as to stop temporarily just before the level crossing certainly and confirm the safety, in addition to obey the traffic laws such as to obey the traffic control being in effect, etc.
- Three level crossing accidents including the concerned accident had occurred at Yabugaichi level crossing in 2008 fiscal year and after. Based on that these accidents were related with the entrance of the automobiles that had been prohibited to pass through, it is considered that it is effective to prevent oversight of the traffic control signs by planting the signs to notice the no thoroughfare of automobiles in the roads connected to the concerned level crossing, and to guide automobiles not to pass though the concerned level crossing by showing the other detouring roads, etc. In addition, it is considered that the promotion for the persons passing the level crossing to understand the traffic laws and to improve consciousness on the safety by the various enlightening activities, etc., will contribute to prevent the level crossing accidents.
- It is somewhat likely that the passerby of the level crossing did not aware of the approaching train in the concerned accident although Yabugaichi level crossing was the class 3 level crossing equipped with the road warning device. Therefore, it is desirable to install the red colored omnidirectional flash lamps, etc., which are high visibility in order to be noticed more certainly the operation of the road warning device responding the approaching train. In addition, it is desirable to study the installation of the automatic barrier machine in addition to the road warning device for the further improvement of the safety in order to prevent the mistaken entrance of the passersby of the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching.
- It is desirable that Fukui Railway Co., Ltd. and the road administrators, etc., will adjust the above measures for improvement and implement the proper measures.