

"The accident with human death caused by the collision between the train and the subcompact truck, occurred at the class 4 level crossing"

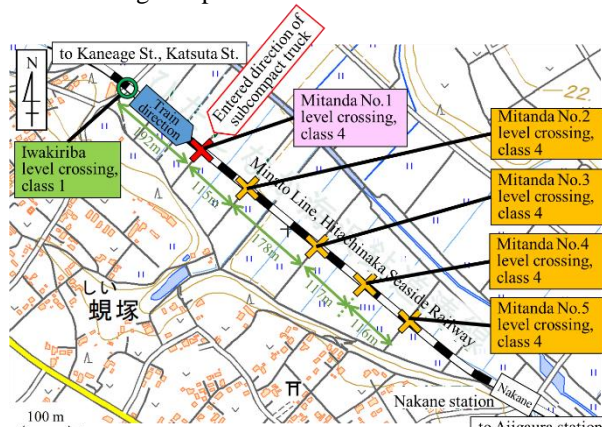
Railway operator : Hitachinaka Seaside Railway Co., Ltd.
 Accident type : Level crossing accident
 Date and time : About 13:25, May 4, 2019
 Location : Mitanda No.1 level crossing, the class 4 level crossing without crossing gate nor road warning device, at about 4,040 m from the origin in Katsuta station, between Kaneage station and Nakane station, single track, Minato Line, Hitachinaka City, Ibaraki Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

While the outbound Local 131 train, started from Katsuta station bound for Ajigaura station, Minato Line of Hitachinaka Seaside Railway Co. Ltd., was running between Kaneage station and Nakane station at the velocity of about 60 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a subcompact truck entering Mitanda No.1 level crossing, then applied the emergency brake and sounded the whistle immediately, but the train collided with the subcompact truck.

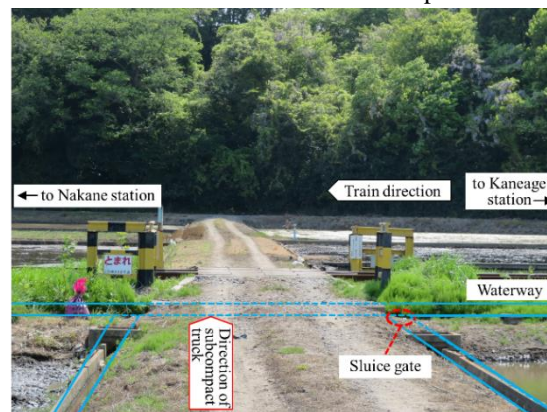
The driver of the subcompact truck was dead and the fellow passenger of the subcompact truck was injured in the accident.

<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

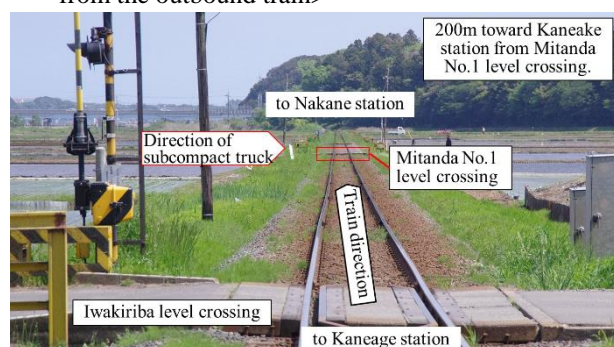
<Status of Mitanda No.1 level crossing viewed from direction of the subcompact truck>



<Perspective of the train viewed from the direction of the entered subcompact truck>



<Perspective of Mitanda No.1 level crossing, viewed from the outbound train>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

- It is highly probable that the subcompact truck collided with the train in the concerned accident because the subcompact truck entered Mitanda No. 1 level crossing, the class 4 level crossing without crossing gate nor road warning device, in the situation that the train was approaching.
- It could not be determined the reason why the subcompact truck entered the level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the driver of the subcompact truck was dead, although it is somewhat likely that the driver of the subcompact truck did not notice the approaching train.

<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

- The class 4 level crossing, that is not equipped with crossing gate and road warning device, should be abolished or equipped with the level crossing protection facilities.
- The class 4 level crossings are located in 5 places, including Mitanda No. 1 level crossing, between Kaneage station and Nakane station, and the road traffics in these level crossings are extremely small. In addition, the discussion had not been implemented on the abolishment or the preparation of level crossing protection facility for Mitanda No.1 level crossing and the other class 4 level crossings. Based on these situations, it is desirable for the relevant parties such as the railway operators, the road administrators, the regional residents, etc., to implement the discussion and study on the abolition and integration or the measures for the safety of these level crossings. In addition, it is desirable to make known well by the educating activities, etc., on the safe method to pass the level crossing such as to stop once at just before the level crossing and confirm the safety, etc.

<MEASURES TAKEN AFTER THE ACCIDENT>

- Hitachinaka Seaside Railway Co., installed the reflecting plates and the signboard indicated as "stop and look" in all class 4 level crossings of the concerned company, in order to improve the noticeability of the level crossing and to excite attention. In addition, the concerned company attached the signboard written as "stop" in high visibility to upper part of the caution fence, in addition to the signboard written as "stop" that had already been attached to under part of the caution fence. Furthermore, the concerned company installed the banners to call attention in Mitanda No.1, No.3 and No.5 level crossings.
- Hitachinaka City paved with asphalt about 10 m sections both in left and right of Mitanda No.1 level crossing road and painted yellow zebra pattern in the inside section from the level crossing caution fence for the city road connecting to Mitanda No.1 level crossing, in order to excite attention when passing the level crossing.

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>