

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator: Hokkaido Railway Company
Accident type: Train derailment
Date and time: About 22:00, February 29, 2012
Location: In the premises of Yakumo Station, Hakodate Line, Yakumo Town, Futami District, Hokkaido.

SUMMARY

The inbound local diesel 890D train, one-man operated train composed of one vehicle, starting from Oshamambe station bound for Mori station of Hokkaido Railway Company, departed the No.4 platform of Yakumo station about 2 minutes and 30 second behind schedule, i.e., 21:56, after waited passing limited express operating behind schedule, on February 29, 2012.

After the train had departed, the train driver felt the swaying motion around the turnout, and he applied an emergence brake and stopped the train. After that, he checked the vehicle and found all two axles of the front bogie derailed to right of the turnout side track, after passed #10-Ro turnout located in the route to the up-track main line from the No.4 platform. There are 2 passengers and a train driver on board the train, but there is no casualty.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is considered probable that the wheels of the front bogie climbed up the right side lead rail and derailed because there were the hard frozen snow or ice were built up to the rail top in the flange way at the lead rail when the train ran into the branch line side route, in this accident.

It is considered probable that there were the hard frozen snow or ice around the flange way because the snow removal work were insufficient.

It is considered somewhat likely that the insufficient snow removal work was caused by the insufficient comprehension about the status of snow removal in the station, because the employees contracted in winter season did not understand the importance about the snow and ice removal work around flange way due to lack of description about it in the education material used in Yakumo station, and the company had not determined how to grasp the status of snow removal work by the contract employees and how to report about the snow removal work.