

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator : East Japan Railway Company

Accident type : Train derailment

Date and time : About 19:31, January 24, 2015

Location : At around 61,397 m from the origin at Shiojiri station, between Kuwanohara signal station and Inariyama station, single track, Shinonoi Line, Chikuma City, Nagano Prefecture

SUMMARY

On Saturday, January 24, 2015, the train driver of the local Electric 1545M train, composed of 3 vehicles, started from Kami-Suwa station bound for Nagano station of East Japan Railway Company, running at about 61 km/h, between Kuwanohara signal station and Inariyama station, Shinonoi Line, noticed the light motor truck stopped in the track in front of the train. Although he took an emergency brake immediately, it was too late, the train collided with the truck and the whole two axles in the front bogie of the first vehicle derailed.

The driver of the light motor truck was injured by the accident.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is probable that the accident had occurred as the train derailed to the left side of the rail due to the lateral force in the left direction acted to the train, because the train collided with the truck, although the train driver took an emergency brake immediately after he noticed the truck stopped in the railway track, but it was too late, and the train ran into Shiroyama tunnel pushing the truck, as the results, the truck had caught between the inside wall of the tunnel and the train at around entrance of the tunnel.

As it is probable that the truck had entered into the railway track from Tanigawa level crossing and ran to the accident site, it could not to be determined why the truck driver continued to drive on the railway track over about 786 m after entered into the track from Tanigawa level crossing, because the clear statements could not be obtained from the truck driver.