

"The level crossing accident caused by the collision of the train and a light automobile, occurred at the class 3 level crossing"

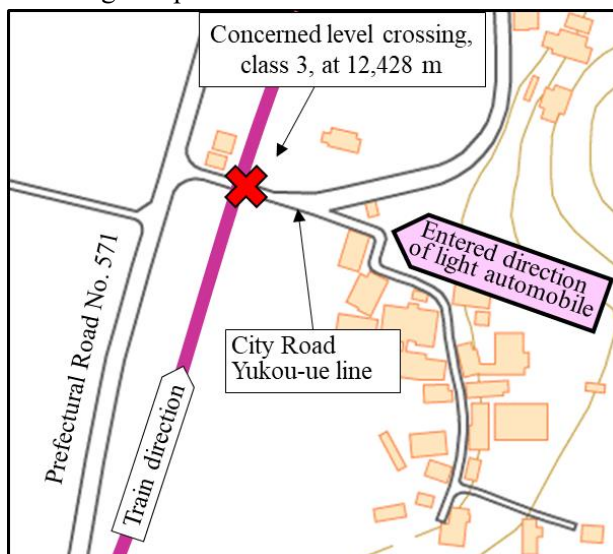
Railway operator : Willer Trains Inc.  
 Accident type : Level crossing accident  
 Date and time : About 14:53, January 29, 2020  
 Location : Kamiyukou level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device but without crossing gate, at about 12,428 m from the origin in Nishimaizuru station, between Shinonome station and Tangokanzaki station, single track, Miyazu Line, Maizuru City, Kyoto Prefecture

<SUMMARY>

On Wednesday, January 29, 2020, while the outbound Local 237D train, started from Nishimaizuru station bound for Toyooka station, Miyazu Line of Willer Trains Inc., was operating in the cruising operation between Shinonome station and Tangokanzaki station at the velocity of about 55 km/h, the driver of the train noticed a light automobile entering Kamiyukou level crossing, the class 3 level crossing, from right, at before the concerned level crossing, then applied the emergency brake and sounded the whistle, but the train collided with the light automobile and stopped. After the train stopped, the driver reported to the train dispatcher on the accident, checked the status of the driver of the light automobile, and asked the arrangement of the ambulance.

The driver of the light automobile was dead and two passengers of the concerned train were slightly injured in the accident.

<Rough map of around the accident site>

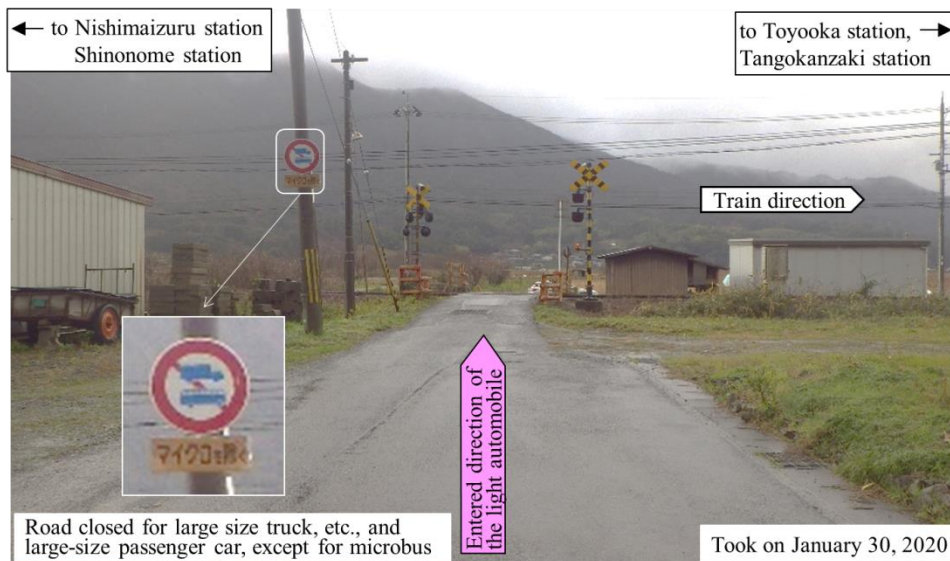


<Perspective view from the train>



# Figure was made using the Geographical Institute Map, Electrical Country Web, of the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan

<Status of Kamiyukou level crossing viewed from the entered light automobile>



<PROBABLE CAUSES>

It is probable that the concerned accident was caused as that the light automobile entered Kamiyukou level crossing, the class 3 level crossing equipped with road warning device, from right in the situation that the road warning device was operating responded to the approaching train, and collided with the train.

It could not be determined the reason why the light automobile entered the concerned level crossing in the situation that road warning device was operating responded to the approaching train, because the driver of the light automobile was dead, although it is considered as the possibility that the driver of the light automobile did not notice the approaching train.

<MATTERS EXPECTED TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE>

In order to aim improvement of the safety of the concerned level crossing, it is desirable for the concerned company, etc., to prepare the crossing gate for the concerned level crossing. In addition, it is desirable for the concerned company, etc., to make efforts to obtain comprehension and cooperation of the users of the level crossings and the regional residents, etc., toward the preparation of the crossing gate and to implement the safety measures such as to cut down trees and plants growing along the railway track to secure the perspective of the train, to improve the red flash lamps in order to improve visibility of the road warning device, to install the signboard for attention to call attention of the passersby of the level crossing, etc. In addition, it is desirable for the road administrator to implement the safety measures such as to prepare the stop line, etc.

<MEASURES TAKEN AFTER THE ACCIDENT>

- (1) Measures implemented by the concerned company, etc., for the concerned level crossing.
- Tentative measures

- (i) Installed signboards indicated as "stop" to the level crossing protection fences in both sides of the level crossing. After that, the attached height of the signboard was changed to the eye level of the driver of automobiles.
- (ii) Implemented mowing works in order to improve still more the visibility from the driver of train and the visibility of train from the passersby, such as automobiles, etc.
- (iii) Implemented the repainting of the level crossing protection fences.
- (iv) Discussed with the Police on the education on the prevention of the level crossing accident, *i.e.*, stop once, for the regional residents. In addition, painted the yellow dotted lines, to let gaze the signboard indicated "stop once", on the road, and painted the yellow lines to understand the width of the level crossing, as the measures to excite attention for passing the level crossing.
- (v) Planned to exchange the red flash lamps of the road warning device in the prefectural road side by the omnidirectional type lamps, by the end of the 2020 fiscal year.

- Permanent measures

- (vi) The concerned company decided to request continuously to Tango Railway Corp., and the relevant parties, etc., to make the concerned level crossing to the class 1 level crossing.

(2) Measures of Maizuru City as the road administrator

Decided to make efforts to secure the safety such as to distribute leaflets to call attention in cooperation with the relevant parties, such as the concerned company, the Police, the regional residents, etc., in addition to approach to Tango Railway Corp., who owned and managed the railway facilities, to implement the safety measures.

[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>](http://www.mlit.go.jp/jtsb)