

This guide has been developed to ensure a thorough, focused and timely investigation of train/vehicle and train/pedestrian incidents. It will provide your responding officers with key safety guidance when working on railway property. It will also serve as an effective tool to ensure that you are obtaining all pertinent and necessary information for your investigation.

For any incident involving a dangerous commodity spill or leak, the first priority for all responders is to ensure a safe environment before commencing any investigation. It is also important to remember that unnecessary delays will cause other trains to stop within the rail transportation network, severing communities and possibly blocking other crossings and causing hazardous situations for the public and first responders.



CN POLICE
1-800-465-9239



CANADIAN RAIL INCIDENT
INVESTIGATION GUIDE





The guidelines below contain accepted safety and police investigation practices that have been endorsed by Chief Coroners and Chief Medical Examiners Association of Canada, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Railway Association of Canada. The checklist will assist police officers in gathering sufficient information to satisfy their investigation requirements when dealing with a railway incident and to allow the train to depart the scene in a timely manner. If followed, these guidelines will also provide first responders with a safe environment in which to work.

1 SAFETY FIRST (Ensuring that the scene is safe for all responders)

- Confirm with the train crew that railway traffic has been halted on all tracks, including those of other adjacent railways and that appropriate railway authorities have been notified (Railway Police, Rail Traffic Controllers).
- Ensure that emergency vehicles are in a non-hazardous area at least 100 feet clear of railway tracks and ensure that medical care is provided for all persons involved.

Note: When safe to do so, allow other train traffic to move through the area on unaffected tracks in consultation with railway officials who will ensure the safety of all responders.

2 NOTIFICATIONS

- Ensure emergency response organizations have been notified including fire and ambulance.
- In the event of fatality, immediately advise the coroner and body removal service.
- Advise Supervisor of the current situation immediately so that the proper police support services can be notified to prevent delays in the investigation.

3 INVESTIGATION

- Identify casualties and witnesses for interviews including any railway employees such as the train crew.

Note: A train crew member does not need a driver's license to operate a train.

- The train crew will provide the following information (which may be required for your report):
 - Their name, address, date of birth and occupation
 - The train number, lead locomotive number (a locomotive does not have a serial number like a vehicle), involved railcar number, train length and the number of railcars in the train.
 - The location, date and time of the incident.
 - The direction in which the train was travelling.

- The direction in which the vehicle or pedestrian was travelling if observed by the crew.
- The movement of the vehicle or pedestrian prior to and at the time of the incident.
- Whether the train was moving or stopped at the time of the incident.
- The location where the train came to stop after the incident. The investigating officer should mark the location of the lead locomotive. The train crew will advise if the train was moved after the incident.
- Detailed description of weather conditions and visibility at the time of the incident.
- Whether headlight was on (Hi or Low), and whether the bell, whistle (horn) and ditch lights were activated at the time of the incident.
- The location of each member of the crew at the time of the incident.

Note: The locomotive engineer can advise the investigating officer if the train is equipped with an Event Data Recorder (EDR) and/or onboard camera. If not, ensure that the information contained below is collected.



RECORDING THE EVENT

Most locomotives are equipped with an EDR similar to the "black box" on aircraft. The following items are recorded.

- Times
- Speed
- Braking distance and braking application information
- Whistle (Horn) and Bell
- Reset safety control device

CN Police officers will be able to help you determine if the locomotive involved in the incident is equipped with an EDR. Special software and expertise are required to download the information from this device (not at the scene). CN Police officers will assist you in obtaining this information in a readable format from CN authorities as soon as possible (usually the next day).

Some locomotives are equipped with a video and audio recording system which records the following footage:

- The area in front of the train
- External sounds such as the bell and the horn

The video and audio information which is captured by the recording system are protected electronically. In some cases, this information may be reviewed by the investigating agency on scene with the assistance of CN Police. In other cases, it may only be available after completing a remote download of the recorder. CN Police will facilitate the review of information on the recorder for the investigating agency using the quickest means possible.



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