

CN POLICE
1-800-465-9239



CANADIAN RAIL INCIDENT
INVESTIGATION GUIDE



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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 information to facilitate 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 safer environment in which to work.

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

- Confirm that railway traffic has been halted on all tracks, including those of other adjacent railways and that appropriate railway authorities have been notified (Please contact the Railway Police or Rail Traffic Controllers at 1-800-465-9239).
- Ensure that emergency vehicles are kept in a safe distance from railway tracks and ensure that medical care is provided for all persons involved.
- Ensure that all responders wear personal protective equipment or "PPE" (safety vests, boots, hats, glasses)

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

Should you need to interview crew members, they should be in position to provide you with the following information:

- 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.

In the event crew members elect not to respond at the scene, CN Police will assist you in obtaining information from CN authorities as soon as possible.

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



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.

Some locomotives are equipped with a video and audio recording system which is designed to record 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.

Special software and expertise are required to download the information from both the EDR and the recording system (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).



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This guide has been developed to facilitate thorough, focused and timely investigations 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 assist you in obtaining all pertinent and necessary information for your investigation.

Our first priority is to provide all responders a safe environment before commencing any investigation. It is also important to remember that unnecessary delays can 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. It is therefore in everybody's best interest that rail operations resume as quickly as possible.

This guide has been developed to facilitate the investigation process in those situations where outside agencies have jurisdiction over rail incidents, and does not purport to grant such jurisdiction when it is not otherwise vested in such agencies. While this guide is designed to provide guidance to agencies, it does not purport to be exhaustive or to limit agencies' investigative responsibilities.