



## CANADIAN RAIL INCIDENT INVESTIGATION GUIDE



This guide has been developed to facilitate thorough and timely investigations of train vs vehicle and train vs pedestrian incidents.

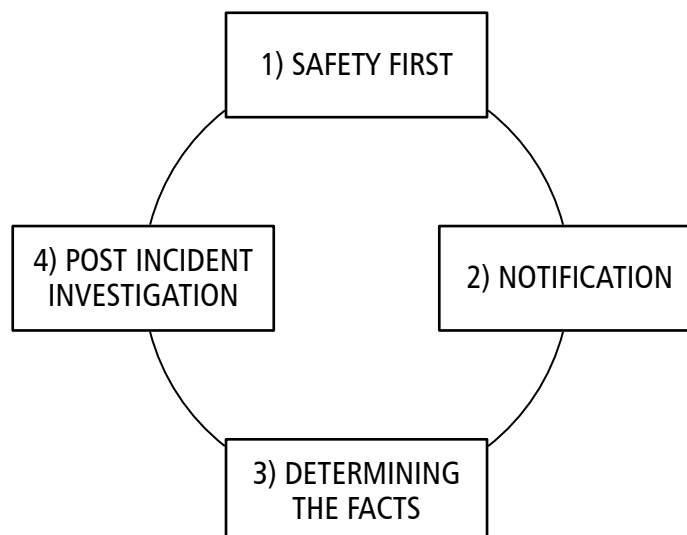
Last minute changes to rail traffic can have serious public safety implications on communities. Unplanned blocked crossings where emergency vehicles must be rerouted may cause critical delays resulting in unnecessary risks to the public. Additional public safety issues may include train passengers being held up for hours in railcars waiting for an investigation to be completed. Investigators must remain cognizant that despite the fact that the involved train may not have passengers, other trains that may have passengers are being stopped at other locations along the track, awaiting the release of the involved train. Further safety issues may also emerge from the inappropriate usage of siding and equipment due to blocked crossings caused by incidents.

It is in everyone's best interest to ensure that rail operations resume as quickly as possible.

### CN POLICE OBJECTIVES

1. Our priority is to provide all responders with a safe environment before commencing any investigation.
2. Our second objective is to partner with local investigative agencies to determine the need for a criminal investigation and to provide any information required by the coroner or medical examiner.

To meet these objectives, we suggest the following steps:





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### 4 STEPS OF RAIL INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

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

- ☐ Confirm that all railway traffic has been halted on all tracks, including those of other adjacent railways, and that appropriate railway authorities have been notified.
  - Contact the Railway Police at 1-800-465-9239
- ☐ Ensure that emergency vehicles are kept at a safe distance from railway tracks and that medical care is provided to all people involved.

#### 2) NOTIFICATION

- ☐ Confirm that emergency response agencies have been notified including fire department and ambulance.
- ☐ In the event of a fatality, advise the coroner or medical examiner as well as the body removal services as soon as practicable to avoid unforeseen delays. Discussions with the railway police should determine which agency will be responsible for these calls.
- ☐ Discussions with police supervisors should take place to determine what, if any, police support services need be notified to prevent delays in the investigation. IE, Forensic Identification Services, or Forensic Collision Reconstructionist.

#### 3) DETERMINING THE FACTS

- ☐ Identify casualties.
- ☐ Determine which police agency will be responsible for obtaining statements from:
  - External witnesses
  - Crew members (see Appendix 1)
- ☐ Determine the existence of locomotive video with CN Police
- ☐ Determine the type of investigation required (criminal or non-criminal), and adapt the investigation method accordingly:
  - a) Do the circumstances of the incident dictate a criminal investigation?
    - If yes, contact your appropriate specialized unit
    - If not, go to b)
  - b) After providing the coroner or medical examiner with the following information, determine if any other details will be required to release the train / scene.
    - Incident details
    - Witness statements existence
    - Incident video existence
- ☐ If all the above are completed, notify the CN Police to release the train.

When practicable and when same will not further delay the release of the train, attempts should be made to interview the train crew prior to their departure. Train crews should be in a position to provide information regarding the following: crew members, train number, incident details and other important data pertinent to the train (see Appendix 1). In the event that interviewing the crew will cause further delays, or should crew members elect not to answer questions at the scene, CN Police will assist you in obtaining statements from the train crew as soon as possible.



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### 4) POST INCIDENT INVESTIGATION – RETRIEVAL OF EVENT RECORDING

VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING	EVENT DATA RECORDER (EDR) *on request only for criminal investigation
<p>Most locomotives are equipped with a video and audio recording system which is designed to record the following footage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The area in front of the train</li><li>– External sounds such as the bell and horn</li></ul> <p>N.B. Video and audio information captured by the recording system are protected electronically.</p> <p>Video and audio recording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Available</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Not available</li></ul>	<p>Locomotive Engineers and CN Police officers can advise the investigating officer if the train is equipped with an EDR, similar to the “black box” on aircraft, and/or onboard camera.</p> <p>The following items are recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Times</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Speed</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Braking distance and braking application information</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Whistle (horn) and bell</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Reset safety control device</li></ul>

*Note: Special software and expertise are required to download the information from both the EDR and the recording system. CN Police officers will assist you in obtaining this information in a readable format from CN authorities as soon as possible.*

Guide Completed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge/Reg./Div. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Investigator's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: YY/MM/DD \_\_\_\_\_



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### APPENDIX 1

Date:	Event type:	Railroad:
Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian	<input type="checkbox"/> CN
Location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> CP
Time On Scene:	<input type="checkbox"/> Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> VIA
Time Rail unit release:	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatality	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Time Coroner / Medical Examiner notified:	Member i/c:	
Coroner's incident file #	Occurrence #:	
External POJ file #	Event #:	

### TRAIN CREW MEMBERS

- Name
- Employee ID number
- Address
- Date of birth
- Occupation

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

### TRAIN

- Train number
- Lead locomotive number (a locomotive does not have a serial number like a vehicle)
- Involved railcar number
- Train length
- Number of railcars in the train

### INCIDENT

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Direction in which the train was travelling
- Direction in which the vehicle or pedestrian was travelling if observed by the crew
- Movement of the vehicle or pedestrian prior to and at the time of the incident
- Make, model, colour of vehicle involved in collision

### AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT

- Train was moving
- Train was stopped
- Location of each member of the crew
- Location of Point of Impact
- Location where the train came to stop after the incident
- Detailed description of weather conditions and visibility

Headlight was:

- ☐ On
- ☐ Hi
- ☐ Low
- ☐ Off

Bell was activated:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Whistle (horn) was  
activated:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Ditch lights were  
activated:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No