

Interim report IR01/2016: Derailment of a tram at Sandilands Junction, Croydon

On publication of RAIB's interim report into a fatal accident involving a tram near Sandilands Junction, Croydon, Simon French, Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents said:

“On behalf of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch, I would like to send my condolences to those who have been injured and the families of those who died in this tragic accident. They will want to know the cause of the accident, and we will be in contact with them to keep them updated throughout our investigation, which will take some months to complete.

“Our interim report sets out what we found during our site examination and in the days that followed. The tram was travelling at 70km/h (43.5 mph) on a curve with a speed limit of 20km/h (12.5 mph). We have found no evidence of track defects or obstructions and our initial investigation does not indicate any malfunction of the tram's braking system.

“We have issued urgent safety advice to reduce the risk of trams approaching Sandilands Junction at excessive speed.

“Our ongoing detailed investigation will now look at the wider context of the accident, including the sequence of events, the way the tram was driven, the infrastructure and how people received their injuries. We will also be looking into previous occurrences of over-speeding in this area and underlying management issues.

“Our final report will include recommendations to reduce the likelihood and consequences of similar events occurring in the future.”

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