



Rail Accident Investigation Branch

Railway Accident Investigators Seminar

Derailment of a passenger train at
Carmont, Aberdeenshire, 12 August 2020

Investigating the fires.

Mark Hamilton
Inspector RAIB

The fire scenes



The leading Power Car



The leading Power Car at Springburn



Recovery and off site activities



Interior view looking back down Coach B



Building a timeline and the sources used

CCTV

OTDR

999 calls

Witness accounts

Photographs

Emergency services logs

New media footage

Social media

Dealing with witness evidence

All witness accounts

Witnesses capable of offering evidence about the fires (because they were present)

Witnesses who were not on site or arrived after fires were extinguished

Witness accounts that reported fire related activity (smoke, flames, smells, damage) or absence of fire (coach B)

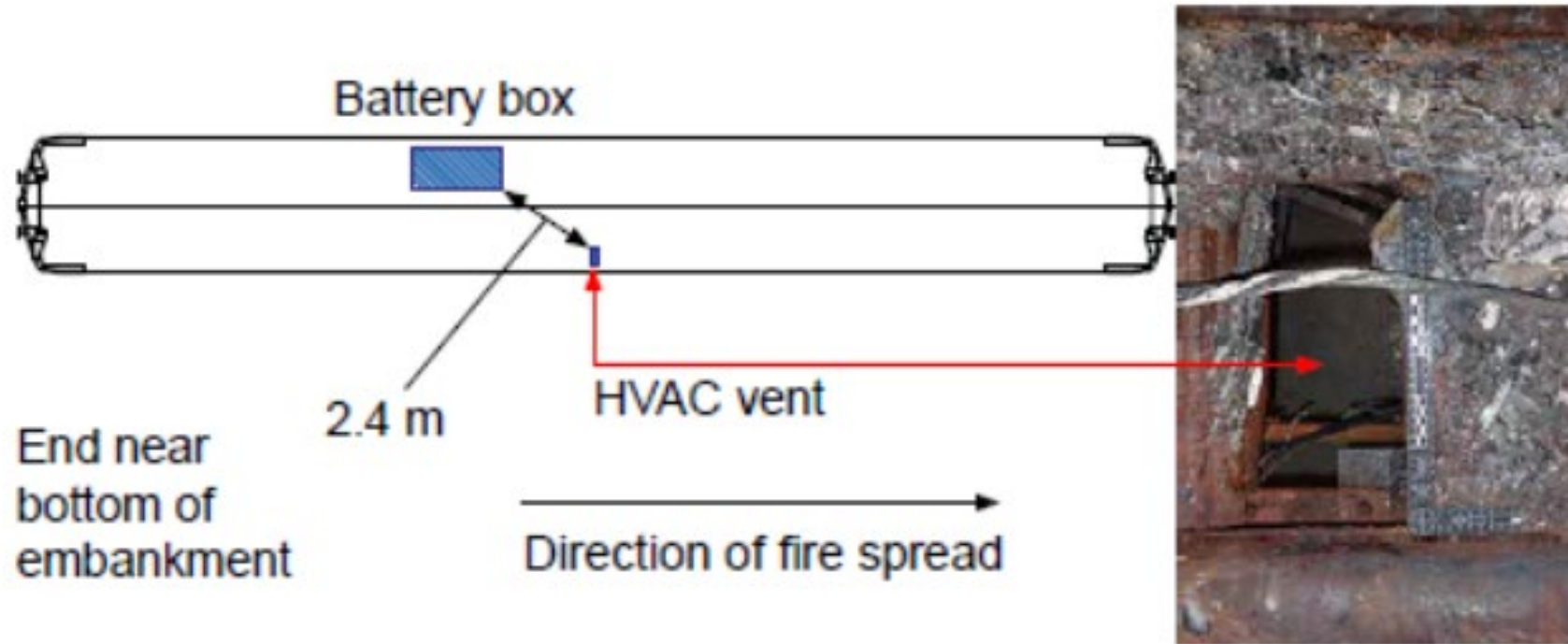
Witnesses who referenced other people who were on site –i.e. have we got an account from them, what could they tell us?

Witnesses who could relate actions or observations to confirmed time sources - took a photo, made a phone call etc

Building the timeline from photographs.



Battery box location relative to vent duct



Other theories



Conclusions – learning worth sharing

- **Recognise the limits of your expertise** - be prepared to go outside your own organisation if you need to
- When dealing with investigations which may end up with large numbers of witnesses, **establish a process for handling that information and understanding what it tells you.**
- When dealing with electronic data, particularly digital images and videos, **confirm the validity of the associated meta data.**