

A Blow to Train Operations

Can strong winds cause derailment?

Tony Simes Australian Transport Safety Bureau

There have been times when the evidence, in relation to a train derailment, suggested a cause that would appear highly unlikely to the general observer. For example, if you told someone that the wind just blew a train off the track, they would probably think you were joking. However, the ATSB has investigated two freight train derailments where the evidence has indeed suggested this type of derailment scenario.



This presentation will provide a brief summary of the investigations, including the on-site observations, train driver's observations and the environmental conditions at the time of the derailments. The presentation will also discuss some of the theory behind thunderstorms, destructive winds, the effect of wind on rail vehicles, and how this theory was applied to the derailment investigations.

The presenter – Tony Simes:

Tony Simes is a Senior Transport Safety Investigator (Rail) with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. Tony has a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering and a Diploma of Transport Safety Investigation. Tony has 24 years experience in the rail industry including;

- I 17 years with TransAdelaide (Adelaide's metropolitan passenger railway network) in the field of design, installation and maintenance of railway signalling and power systems.
- I 1.5 years with the South Australian Rail Safety Regulator managing rail safety accreditation and auditing of railway operators and infrastructure owners.
- I 6 years with the ATSB conducting 'no blame' rail safety investigations.

The Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA) - QLD Chapter

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TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

VENUE:
Hawken Auditorium
Engineering House
477 Upper Edwards St
Spring Hill

DATE:
Wednesday
25th August 2010

TIME:
12:00 noon for
12:30 pm

REGISTRATION:
EA Qld Division
[Click Here to Register](#)

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WWW.engineersaustralia.org.au
And register through the
Qld Division page.

or
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