

Accident No.: DCA14MR002
Accident Type: Railroad Train Derailment
Location: Bronx, New York
Date: December 1, 2013

Preliminary Report

The information in this report is preliminary and will be supplemented or corrected during the course of the investigation.

On December 1, 2013, about 0719 eastern standard time, southbound Metro-North Railroad (Metro-North) passenger train number 8808 derailed at milepost 11.35 on track number 2 of the Metro-North Hudson Line in The Bronx, New York. Train movements on this line are governed by a traffic control system.

The train originated in Poughkeepsie, New York with a destination of Grand Central Station in New York City. It consisted of seven passenger cars and one locomotive at the rear pushing the train.

As a result of the derailment, 4 passengers died and 59 persons were transported to local hospitals for injuries. Metro-North estimated there were about 115 passengers on the train at the time of the derailment. Damage was estimated by Metro-North to be in excess of \$9 million.

The weather at the time of the accident was reported as 39° F with cloudy skies.



Figure: Aerial view of accident scene

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators have completed the on-scene work in The Bronx. The investigation will continue at the NTSB headquarters in Washington, D.C. Preliminary results of the investigation include:

- The derailment occurred in a 6 degree left hand curve where speed was limited to 30 mph.
- Estimated train speed at the time of the derailment was at 82 mph.
- Detailed inspection and testing of the signal system, train brakes, and other mechanical equipment did not identify any anomalies.
- An inspection of the track in the derailment area did not identify any pre-accident anomalies.
- All cars on the train and the locomotive derailed.
- Between December 1 and 11, 2013, investigators completed interviews of train crews and first responders. Interview transcripts will be included in the public docket upon release.
- Locomotive event recorders were sent to the NTSB laboratory in Washington, D.C. for further analysis.

The parties to the investigation include the Federal Railroad Administration, Metro-North Railroad, New York Public Transportation Safety Board, Teamsters Local 808, New York Police Department, New York Fire Department, and Bombardier Transportation. The Association of Commuter Rail Employees (ACRE) was initially designated as a party. However, because one of ACRE's senior officials made unauthorized comments on the investigation to the media, ACRE was removed as a party on December 3, 2013.