EAST COAST RAILWAY

Office of the Chief safety officer, Bhubaneswar.

No:- ECOR/SFY/Alert advice-29/2023/581A

Date: 28.09.2023

То

The Divisional Railway Manager KUR, SBP & WAT

ALERT MESSAGE-29

Sub: - Lesson learnt from recent accidents & unusual incidents in IR.

The recent accidents/unusual incidents occurred in IR discussed as under happened due to casual approach, ignorance to safety rules, adoption of short-cuts and bad practices attributed to human failure.

A. Fire in VPU of Passenger train on Prayagraj Division/NCR:

- 1. On 05.08.2023 at 08.54 hrs, Train No.: 18310 DN Jammu Tawi Sambalpur Express, Engine No.: 22885/WAP5-TKD, Load: 22 Coaches (ICF), Section: Ghaziabad Tundla (BG, Double Line, Electrified, A Route, and Automatic) while entering Platform No. 02 at Aligarh station; smoke emission detected in its Parcel Van (VPU), the rearmost vehicle. Affected coach detached immediately. Fire doused at 9.30 hrs with Fire Extinguishers available in train & station. Casuality: NIL
- 2. Cause: JAG level inquiry committee found the incidence of fire occurred due to damage/rupture of casing of loosely packed lithium ion batteries kept under load of other consignments stacked over it. Lithium ion being inflammable gets ignited in presence of oxygen. License of Lessee MGT Cargo (P. K. Gupta), Contract Period: 24.01.23 to 23.01.25 (23Tonne), Awarded by: Sambalpur Division/ECoR was terminated.



3. A similar case of fire in VPU of train no. 18030 UP (Shalimar-LTT) at Nashik Road Station, Bhusaval Division, and CR on 05.11.2022 occurred due to spark from short circuit of loose wires connected to battery of camera/electronic device loaded in the VPU.

4. The following initiatives need to be taken to prevent recurrence:

a. Mis declaration of parcel should be checked & action to be taken accordingly.

b. All parcels should be scanned and labelled safe for transportation before

loading.

c. Provision of CCTV cameras and scanners at the parcel handling stations to be ensured.

d. The operation of scanner and CCTV and monitoring of activities using them should be done by the security personnel. Data of 30 days should be stored by CCTV system.

e. Frequent ambush/random checks should be done by Divisional & HQ

officers to ensure the above.

B. FIRE IN PARTY-BOOKED SLEEPER COACH (BOOKED BY IRCTC):

- On 26.08.2023 at Madurai Station of Section Nagercoil Madurai (BG, DL, Electrified, D route, Absolute); one ICF Sleeper Party Coach booked online through IRCTC Ex. Lucknow Junction/NER, No. GSCN 113210/NER from train No. 16730 (Punalur - Madurai) Express was detached & stabled on stable line No-2 at 05:00 hrs.
- 2. 63 passengers of the coach boarded from Lucknow, arrived Madurai at 3:47 hrs on 26.08.23. The coach was booked on FTR (Full Tariff Rate) & had started its journey from Lucknow on 17th August, 2023.
- 3. At 5:15 hrs, this coach caught fire. Fire brigade arrived at 5:45 hrs & fire doused at 07:00hrs.
- 4. Casualty/ Injury: Killed: 09, Grievous injury: 01, Simple Injury: 07 (All were passengers).
- 5. Prima facie cause: Unauthorized cooking with LPG Gas by Tour party.

6. LAPSES:

- In spite of the undertaking given by the tour operator (Basin Tours & Travels, Sitapur, Lucknow), some members of the party coach were using cooking LPG gas cylinder in an unauthorized manner for preparing tea/snacks in contravention of Section 67, 164 & 165 of Indian Railways Act, which caused the fire.
- Data storage of CCTV camera for 07 days is available at Lucknow Jn (NER) instead of standing instruction of Board for keeping recording for 30 days. So it could not be traced whether the passengers were carrying any kind of inflammable material (LPG Gas Cylinder) at the time of boarding from Lucknow.
- No check conducted at any point by RPF/commercialoriginating/enroute/destination.

C. Derailment of Wagons on Chakradharpur Division /SER.

- 1. On 01.08.2023 at 10:35 hrs at Dangoaposi station Yard (DPS), Section: Rajkharsawan-Barbil (BG, Triple Line, Electrified, Absolute); after shunting, a load of 32 BOXN/E wagons (piecemeal wagons) was kept on sorting line (Line No. 11) at Dangaposi station yard at about 08:30 Hrs. The shunting loco moved back to line no. 4 at 08:45 Hrs. Suddenly, these wagons rolled down towards the shunting neck and the rearmost 9 BOXN/E wagons got derailed out of these, 6 wagons capsized, causing infringement of Joint Line and UP Main line. TSL was introduced to clear the traffic.
- 2. Restoration: Up Main Line 05 hours & 25 minutes & Joint line 20 hours & 5 minutes.
- 3. Cause: Rolling down of the load stabled in sorting line no.11 took place due to lack of proper securing in terms of para 5.23 of GR, para 5.23.01 of SR.

4. Important Observations:

- > The track involved in the accident zone is 90 UTS 60 Kg rail which was laid in 2021.
- > There is a mismatch of gradient as per ESP & SWRD/DPS (1:400 Down towards Maluka/Howrah end) with readings of IOW/DPS (gradient for sorting line no.11 and shunting neck line varies from 1:189 to 1:300).
- > Points men and Shunting Jamadar did not apply hand brake in any of the wagons & Skids of the said stabled rake in sorting line no. 11.

D. SPAD RESULTING DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAIN ON MALDA TOWN/ ER:

- 1. On 12.08.23 at 00:36 hrs at Poradanga station yard of Section: Bandel Malda Town (BG, DL, Elec, Abs.), Train No: UP BHRB/N, Engine No. 24681/WAG-7, Load: 41 BCN/L +1, Commodity:Rice; while entering Poradanga station, passed Home signal at "one yellow" aspect, overshot Starter Signal (S-5) of Loop line No. 01 at 'On' position and after SPAD, its Loco along with one adjacent wagon got derailed over Cross-over point No. 57A connecting to line no. 1 & 2 and bumped into Sand Hump.
- 2. Casualty / Injury: Nil.
- 3. Prima Facie: LP & ALP were not alert. JAG Inquiry under progress.

4. Observations:

- Manual sign on was done, BA test data is not available in RPH (Rampurhat) Lobby for LP of this case.
- > The Breath Analyzer(BA) test, done after SPAD, detected positive
- > The nominated LI has not foot plated/counseled LP
- > The manual sign on in RPH Lobby is 13.72% and sign off 57.14%
- > The manual sign on of LP is 85.06%
- Multiple user IDs and passwords in vogue
- 5. Manual sign on and sign off to be used in extreme eventuality like communication failure only and Register for manual sign on/off to be signed by BO of concerned lobby.
- 6. The availability of CMS kiosks with inbuilt BA equipment to be ensured.

E. UNUSUAL INCIDENCE ON MORADABAD DIVISION / NR:

1. On 24.07.2023 at 12:30 hrs at Simbhaoli station of Moradabad - Ghaziabad section (BG, DL, Electrified, D Spl. Route); UP 20503 (Dibrugarh - New Delhi) Rajdhani Express was served authority T369-(1), advanced pilot memo at Garhmuktesar (GMS) station, the station in rear, and accordingly line clear was granted by SM/Simbhaoli at 12:02 hrs.

2. While approaching, Loco Pilot of the Rajdhani Exp. observed the point was set in the reverse position (i.e. towards Loop line) and immediately stopped his train 150-200 meters before Point No. 42 & intimated Station Master on duty. There after the route was set, clamped and padlocked towards UP Main Line No. 2 and

train was received on memo/Piloting in.

3. Before granting line clear, SM/Simbhaoli did not ensure Point no. 42 was set in normal position (i.e. Main line), clamped & pad locked. The point was set physically towards the loop Line no 1.

4. Engineering block for work of Multi Functional Tamping Machine (MFI) was granted on DN line from 11:45 to 16:00 hrs at Simbhaoli (SMBL) station.

5. Crossover point No. 41 (towards MB end) was involved in this block; all the UP trains were to be received on memo only.

6. Cross-over point nos. 41 was set and padlocked in Normal position (M/L).

7. Prima facie: Negligence by on duty Station Manager, SM/SMBL violating GR 3.69 (3a) i.e. not ensuring to fulfill conditions of taking off the home signal before granting line clear.

All section DTIs, SSE/Sig, SSE/P. Way, SSE/C&W, CMIs are advised to counsel the staff and monitor strict adherence of the instructions in letter & spirit and ensure no short cut to be allowed under any circumstance.

> Chief Safety Officer Bhubaneswar

Copy to-

- 1. Secy. to GM for kind information of GM.
- 2. Secy. to AGM for kind information of AGM.
- 3. PCE, PCME, PCOM, PCEE, PCCM, PCSTE, PCSC & CAO (Con) for information.

4. Sr. DSO/ KUR, SBP & WAT for information & necessary action.

5. Principal MDTC/VSKP & MDZTI/BBS for information & necessary action.