

**ASSOCIATION OF
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

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ATHRA ALERT #26 - July 2006

UK Rail Accident Report – Collision on GCR 4 Feb 2006

The UK Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) has released its report into a collision at Great Central Railway's Loughborough Central station on 4 February 2006.

On Saturday 4 February a steam locomotive was traveling at low speed towards Loughborough Central station when it collided with the rearmost of six carriages berthed at platform 1. Two members of GCR staff sustained minor injuries. The locomotive and one carriage sustained damage. The RAIB has made four recommendations to Great Central Railways as a result of its investigation. The report (20 pages, in pdf format) is available on the RAIB website at www.raib.gov.uk/publications/investigation_reports/reports_2006/report072006.cfm

Key Messages

The factors identified in this investigation could conceivably also arise on an Australian Tourist or Heritage Railway and included:

- Distraction of the driver and fireman from looking out
- Failure of the driver to wear spectacles, a requirement of his medical certificate
- Failure of the driver (who was aged 73) to undergo medical examinations at the frequency required (by the GCR policy, which in this respect is similar to the Australian requirement)
- Inability of staff attending to the injured person to locate a first aid box.

Recommended Actions:

ATHRA groups are encouraged to:

- Make the RAIB report available to operating staff to raise awareness of the consequences of the issues involved.
- Consider, in advance of having a similar accident, any need to:
 - Revise their Rule Book and training to require:
 - Drivers to keep a good look out and not, unless absolutely necessary, operate controls other than those used for driving when proceeding at caution as far as the line is clear, and when staff, members of the public and other rail vehicles may be nearby;
 - Firemen to keep a good look out when proceeding at caution as far as the line is clear, and when staff, members of the public and other rail vehicles may be nearby.
 - Put in place a supervisory system to ensure that members of its staff comply with the requirements of their medical certificates.
 - Put in place a supervisory system to ensure that its policy on medical certification and recertification is properly applied to all staff.
 - Ensure that a first-aid kit is provided and its provision clearly indicated in all locomotive driving cabs [or in close proximity].

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