

Summary of Safety Performance



Rail Safety & Standards Board

October 2008

Fatalities

There were no reported workforce fatalities during October. However, there was one passenger fatality.

On 4 October, an elderly man fell from the platform and was struck by a train at Seaforth & Litherland (London North West).

There were nine public accidental fatalities, eight of which involved trespassing.

There were also 16 suspected suicides. These figures are subject to change as more information (eg coroners' verdicts) becomes available.

Reportable train accidents: collisions, derailments and trains striking road vehicles

On 8 October, a passenger train struck a crossing barrier at Green Lane automatic half barrier crossing (London North Western). A road vehicle had struck the barrier causing it to foul the running line. There were no reported injuries.

On 17 October, a passenger train clipped a van at low speed at Corpach automatic open crossing locally monitored (Scotland). The crossing was working correctly at the time. There were no reported injuries on board the train, although the road vehicle driver suffered shock.

On 17 October, a passenger train struck a car which was involved in a road traffic accident on Sandhills automatic half barrier crossing (South East). The crossing was working correctly for the passage of the train. There were no reported injuries on board the train, but the road vehicle driver suffered non-life threatening injuries. He was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

On 19 October, a passenger train struck a road-rail vehicle working in a possession at Orpington (South East). There was only superficial damage to vehicle and no injuries to staff or passengers. This incident is subject to a formal investigation.

On 29 October, two passenger trains were involved in a roll back collision at Three Bridges station (South East). There were no reported injuries. This incident is subject to a local investigation.

Precursors

During October 2008, there were 30 category A SPADs. This is the lowest number of recorded SPADs in any October (since the systematic collection of SPAD data began in 1985). This brings the 2008 total (to the end of October) to 275, which compares with 259 up to the same point in 2007.

Of the 30 category A SPADs in October, eight were risk ranked potentially significant (16-19) and none were ranked as potentially severe (20+).

During October 2008, there were 123 category B, 13 category C and no category D SPADs, giving a total of 136. There were 129 such SPADs in October 2007.

There were 16 broken rails in October. The yearly total is 101. This is 22% lower than the total up to the same period in 2007.

Latest safety performance reports: available on www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp or <http://www.opsweb.co.uk/>

There is a feedback form on the Rail Safety and Standards Board website; we would appreciate your comments on all our outputs.

The Safety Intelligence Team can help with safety data queries; please do not hesitate to contact us.

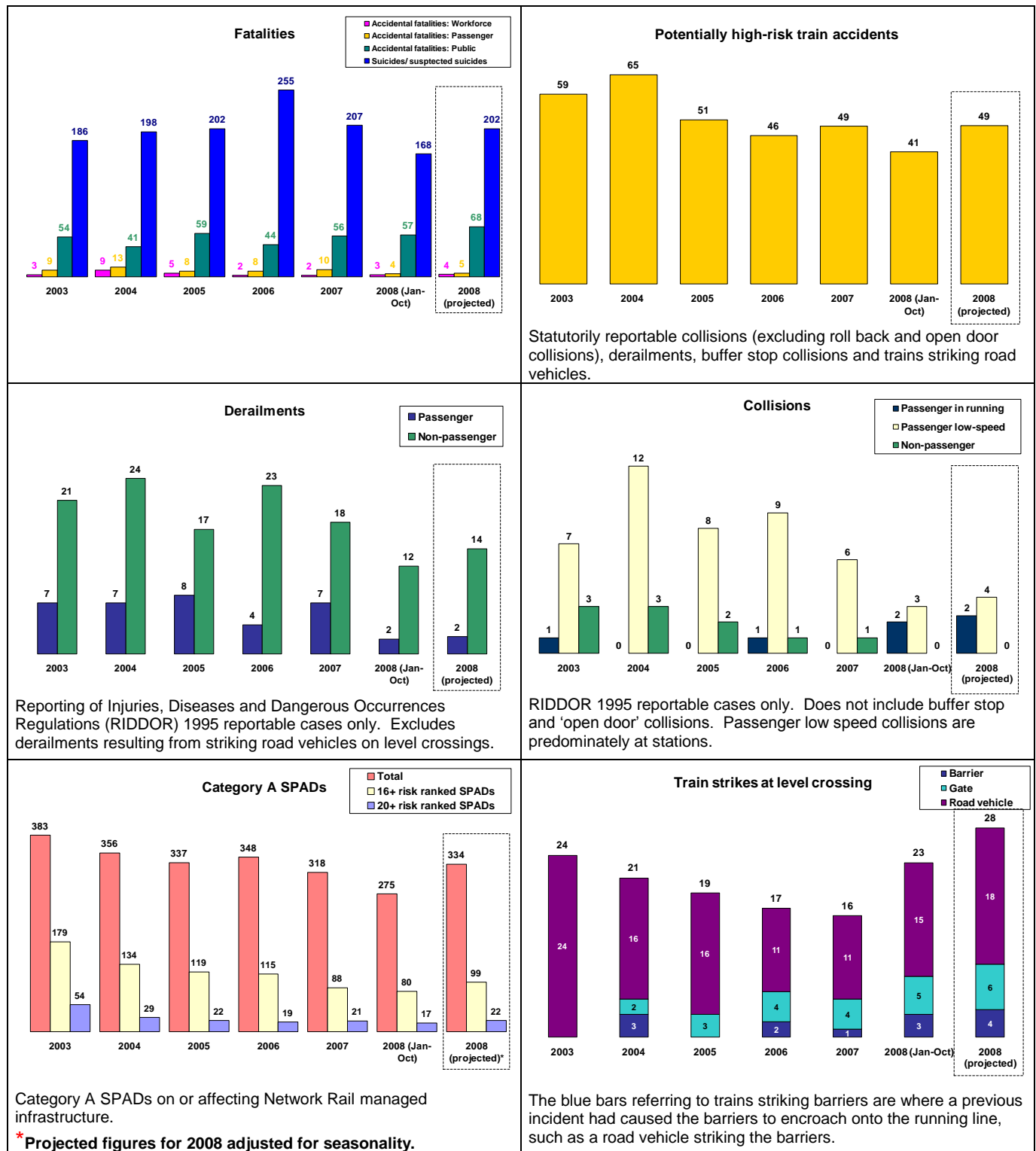
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With ten months of data available for 2008, we have projected figures to the end of the year. The projected number of PHRTAs (potentially higher-risk train accidents) are broadly similar to 2007 figures, while low-speed passenger and non-passenger train collisions and passenger train derailments are showing potential reductions.

However, accidental public fatalities and SPADs are showing potential increases and the total number of train strikes at level crossings to date already exceeds the total for 2007.



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