Train Derailment Kills 79 in Spain
Santiago de Compostela, Spain
July 24, 2013

On July 24, 2013, a train carrying 247 people violently derailed near Santiago de Compostela Spain. Over 130 were injured and 79 were killed as a result of the accident. Many details are still unknown, but investigators have determined that the train was traveling about twice the posted speed over a curved section of track.

Evidence: The train's data recorder showed that it was traveling at about twice the posted speed limit of 80 km per hour.

Evidence: Photos from crash site.

Evidence: Eye witness accounts. Video of accident.

Evidence: Train company records.

Evidence: Findings of investigators.

Evidence: Articles about the accident in major newspapers.

Evidence: Operator was familiar with this portion of the track.

Evidence: Operator action required to slow train

Train had left track where it was controlled

Automatic system not controlling

Different system installed than on other high speed trains

Train had left track where it was controlled

Automatic warning came too late?

Missed transition to zone requiring operator to

Evidence: Operator still occurred despite the warning.

Evidence: Operator was familiar with this portion of the track.

Train operator failed to take action

Evidence: Operator action only warned driver of

Automatic system was not controlling

Train had left track where it was controlled

Evidence: The European Rail Traffic Management System automatically controls braking and is installed on most of the high-speed track in the area, but not in area where the accident occurred.

The initial investigation findings have led to the train’s driver being provisionally charged with multiple counts of homicide by professional recklessness on 28 July 2013.