

Level Crossing Accident Derails Goods Train

12 November 2008

A freight train travelling from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg derailed at 14:05 today when a motorist failed to stop at a level crossing and collided with the train. The accident happened at Donkerpoort which is situated between Noupoort and Colesburg.

The motorist was fatally injured and 14 wagons and the locomotive of the freight train derailed. Most of the wagons were empties but one containing diesel had to be decanted and the diesel transferred to another rail tanker to avoid spillage.

The line has been closed and this will affect three passenger trains. The Johannesburg to PE train will be staged in Bloemfontein and passengers bussed from there, whilst the two from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg will be re-routed via De Aar. The expected time of re-opening the line is 17:00 on Friday, 14 November 2008.

Transnet Freight Rail appeals to motorists to be very cautious and obey level crossing signs to prevent these tragic accidents.

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