

St. Lazare, Manitoba (2019)

Location: St. Lazare, Manitoba

File Number: 1201-02

TSB Investigation Number: R19W0050

The Accident

On February 16, 2019, a Canadian National Railway Company (CN) train derailed near St. Lazare, Manitoba, in the rural municipality of Ellice-Archie. The train had 108 cars carrying crude oil, out of which 37 cars derailed. Seventeen of these cars breached and 15 of those cars released product. Approximately 820,000 litres of crude oil leaked. The derailment occurred on property owned by a rancher. Oil spilled on top of a frozen pond used to water cattle in the summer. CN's environmental team led the cleanup. There was no fire, no injuries, and no evacuation. There was no additional impact to other waterways, including the nearby Assiniboine River.

Damages

There were no fires, injuries, or evacuations ordered, and crude oil did not enter any waterways. Damages occurred to each of the fourteen cars experiencing leaks, ranging from minor leaks to entire loss of payload. Portions of the track were also damaged, with minor damages before and more significant damages afterwards. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) did not provide a dollar figure of damages incurred as a result of the derailment.

The Investigator-in-charge at TSB concluded that the derailment occurred due to mismatched joint bars along the track. Measures have since been put into place to prevent this same error from happening.

Measures Taken by the Administrator

The Fund for Railway Accidents Involving Designated Goods (the Fund) sought additional information from the TSB regarding this incident, and confirmed the details noted in this summary. Based on the available data and the extent of damages resulting from the accident, it is most unlikely that the Fund will be triggered for compensation purposes.

Status

The TSB closed this file and published their report on 29 April 2022. This report can be found on the TSB website. However, we continue to monitor this accident until the six-year time limit for claiming against the railway company expires in February 2025.