



The Canadian Rail Death Incident Protocol has been developed to guide the investigative process on nonsuspicious rail deaths. The protocol is not intended to override the necessary decision-making of various investigative services dealing with specific investigations.

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Leadership Bulletin

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COLLABORATIVE PROTOCOL FOR RAIL DEATH INVESTIGATION (CPRDI)

The Canadian Pacific Police Service (CPPS) is led by Chief Al Sauve and responsibility for the Province of Manitoba & Saskatchewan falls to Inspector Kelly Dennison. The mission of the CPPS includes:

- Enhancing Public Safety
- Supporting Reliability by Reducing Train Delay
- Protecting Personnel, Assets, Operations and Information
- Enforcing the Law and Bringing Offenders to Justice.

The primary focus of the CPRDI is to address non-suspicious deaths, from the initial report to clearance and the resumption of normal operations. Safety is the primary consideration in all aspects of the protocol and on scene response.

In 2019, 72 railway fatalities occurred in Canada and in 2020, 59 railway fatalities occurred and were investigated. At the scene of a fatality police operate in a coordinated manner with other partners who hold certain shared and/or unique responsibilities such as Railway company officials, Medical Examiners/Coroners, EMS and other First Responders, Transport Safety Board and Transport Canada. The collaborative approach to these investigations ensures we communicate safely, Coordinate to reach decision points swiftly & reliably, cooperate in obtaining on scene evidence and follow each agency specific directives as required.

Impacts:

Evidence has shown that long and often unnecessary delays to restoration of full and uninterrupted rail operations contribute to:

- Increased costs and insufficient use of police and other partner resources
- Significant increase to public safety, collateral traffic congestion, and high risk pedestrian movement.
- Due to the complex and dynamic nature of rail/transit traffic, such risks can quickly extend beyond the scene and even well outside of the responding jurisdiction.

The goal is to have the event processed/investigated in the most efficient way; reducing stress and impact on individuals, while ensuring agency and provincial requirements are met.

Why a Collaboration is important?

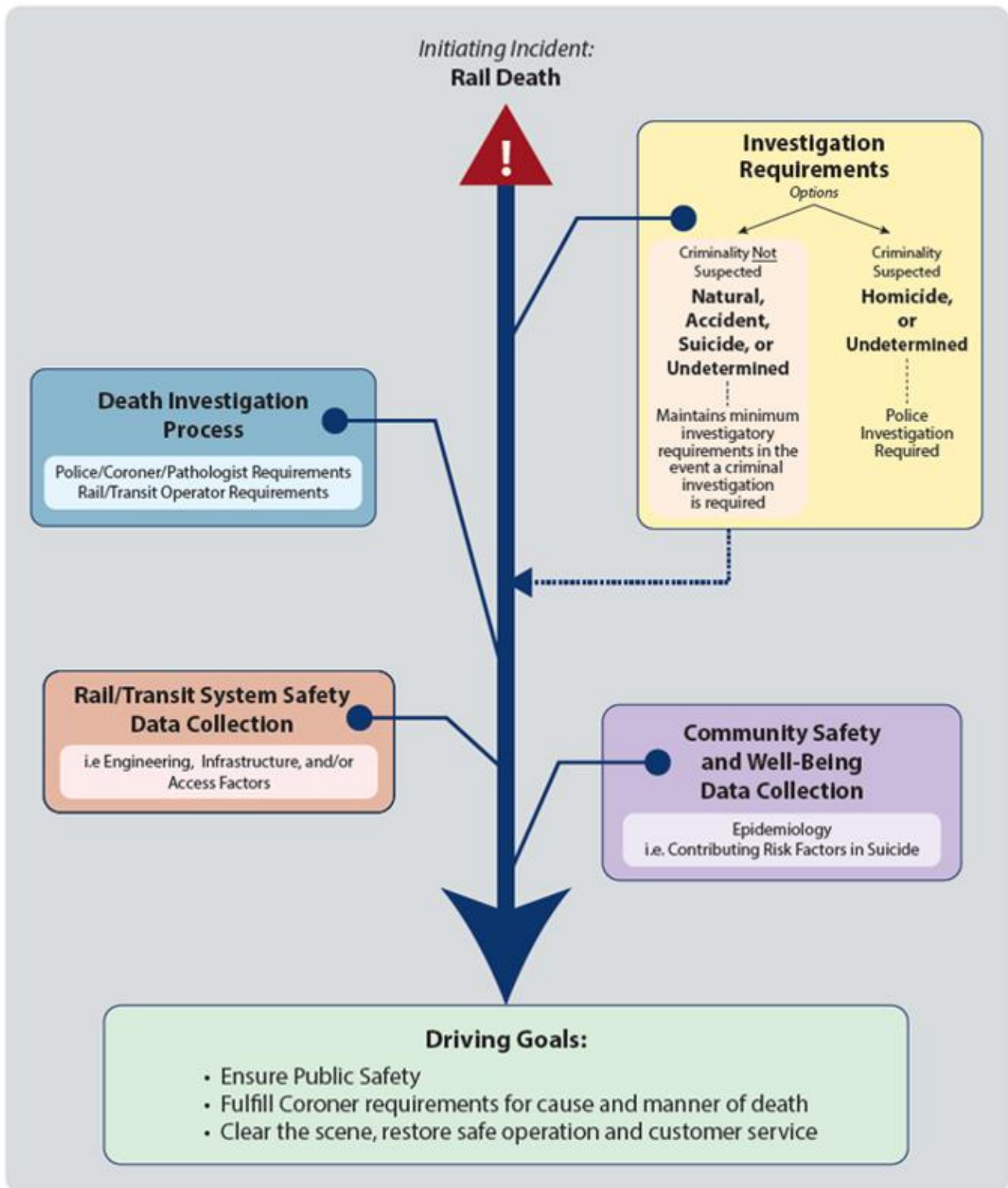
- Deaths occur at alarming frequency across the thousands of kilometers of freight and passenger rail lines in Canada.
- In major urban centers, the concentration of rail lines and rail traffic continues to grow, and this is reflected in increasing numbers of rail death incidents.
- Rail deaths can fall into five main categories: natural, accident, suicide, homicide and undetermined, and in all categories, a number of responsibilities fall to the police-of-jurisdiction on scene, as well as investigative concerns that may extend beyond the scene itself.
- At the scene police must work with the Chief Medical Examiner and railway/transit operators, represented principally by their respective sworn police or special constable service and/or public safety unit.

The Focus of the CPRDI:

Although the protocol addresses all categories of Rail Death Investigations, the primary focus of this protocol is to address **non-suspicious** deaths, from initial report to clearance and resumption of normal operations.

- Does not extend past the resumption of operations
- Each agency continues to jointly investigate the incident as needed and/or facilitate consultations post incident to understand contributing factors as part of overall community safety.
- The aim to return service to rail operations in 90 minutes or less in order to avoid economic impacts, minimize strains on local resources and increase community safety concerns due to system backlogs while respecting the necessary mandates of the agencies involved.

Rail Death Investigations - A Systems Approach
Shared Goals and Essential Purposes



Elements of the CPRDI:

The Collaborative Protocol for Rail Death Investigations addresses;

- Processing the Scene
- Decision Point: Is Criminality Suspected?
- Investigative Pathways
- Death Investigation Process
- Rail System Safety Data Collection
- The Basic Anatomy of a Railway Fatality
- Minimum Standards of Relevant Property and Materials Collection
- Post Incident Analysis

Members of the Canadian Pacific Police Service would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your agency for an indepth look at Railway Fatalities and the Colaborative Protocol for Railway Death Investigations. Your input is greatly appreciated.

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