Extract from the investigation report RJ 2011:01 on an incident occurred on 02/05/2009

Summary

On Saturday, 2 May 2009, an incident occurred involving wagons rolling uncontrolled on the Östavall - Alby line.

The wagons had earlier that day been transported from Östavall to the timber terminal in Töva, and then run back again to the timber terminal in Östavall to be loaded with timber.

When the train came to Östavall, the driver had to move the locomotive to the other end of the trainset in order to back to the wagons to the timber terminal.

After the driver had backed in to the timber terminal in Östavall, he decoupled the wagons and parked them in the terminal. He then drove the locomotive to Ånge at 14:35 as train 85090.

A private individual who was in the vicinity of the railway in Östavall noticed that wagons were rolling and at 15:27 contacted the remote dispatcher in Ånge to give notice that there were wagons rolling in Östavall.

Just prior to the call, the remote dispatcher had noticed that there was a shorted track circuit in Östavall and had begun to investigate what might have happened.

The wagons rolled about 4 km on the up track before they stopped. The incident caused no injuries, but if a train had been on the up track towards Östavall then a collision could have occurred.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Transport Agency:

- explore the possibility of developing standards for how protection should be arranged for parking tracks to prevent vehicles from rolling out onto/near to the connecting main line, even when there is not a reserved train set on the main line (see sections 2.3.2 and 3.3 B2) (RJ 2011:01 R1).
- in connection with inspections, investigate whether operators' safety management systems are sufficient to capture behaviours that can endanger traffic safety (see sections 2.2.3, 3.2.1 A1, 3.2.2 H1 and 3.3 B1) (RJ 2011:01 R2).