

Inori no Mori, The Site of the Accident on the Fukuchiyama Line and the Memorial

On April 25, 2005, we at the West Japan Railway Company caused the Accident on the Fukuchiyama Line, an extremely serious accident which claimed 106 lives and left more than 500 injured. We continue to honor the memory of those whose lives were lost, and we offer our sincerest and most heartfelt apologies and condolences to the bereaved families, all those who were injured and their families.

We would also like to offer our sincere apologies to those living in the vicinity of the accident and anyone else whom we affected in any way through our hand in this tragic event. Furthermore, we extend our deepest gratitude to the police, firefighters, Japan Self-Defense Forces, medical personnel and institutions, nearby companies, local government, area residents and all others involved in emergency and rescue operations.

The scene of the accident is vitally important since many traces of the derailment and subsequent crash remain along with a host of feelings, from the regret of the deceased to the sadness of the bereaved and the painful memories of those who were injured.

We have provided this area, Inori no Mori (Memorial Grove), as a place of memorial to honor the memory and spirit of those who lost their lives. The site further serves as a location to preserve the evidence of this tragic event for posterity, ensuring it does not become forgotten over time, acting as a continuing reminder of the importance of life for both contemporary society and future generations. This is also a location for us at the West Japan Railway Company to reflect upon this tragedy and continue to dedicate ourselves to safety.

From here on, we will continue to dedicate ourselves to the protection and care of this site, with each and every employee holding fast to the memory of this accident as we pursue greater railway safety based on our steadfast determination to never allow a tragedy like the Accident on the Fukuchiyama Line to occur ever again.

West Japan Railway Company

Information

- Inori no Mori is open every day from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please note that it may be temporarily closed, such as under heavy weather condition.
- You are requested to write your name in the visitors' book when you come to Inori no Mori.
- Tables to place flowers in memory of the victims are located in front of the cenotaph and by the northeast corner of the apartment building.
- Please show respect for its purpose and observe the following rules and etiquette.

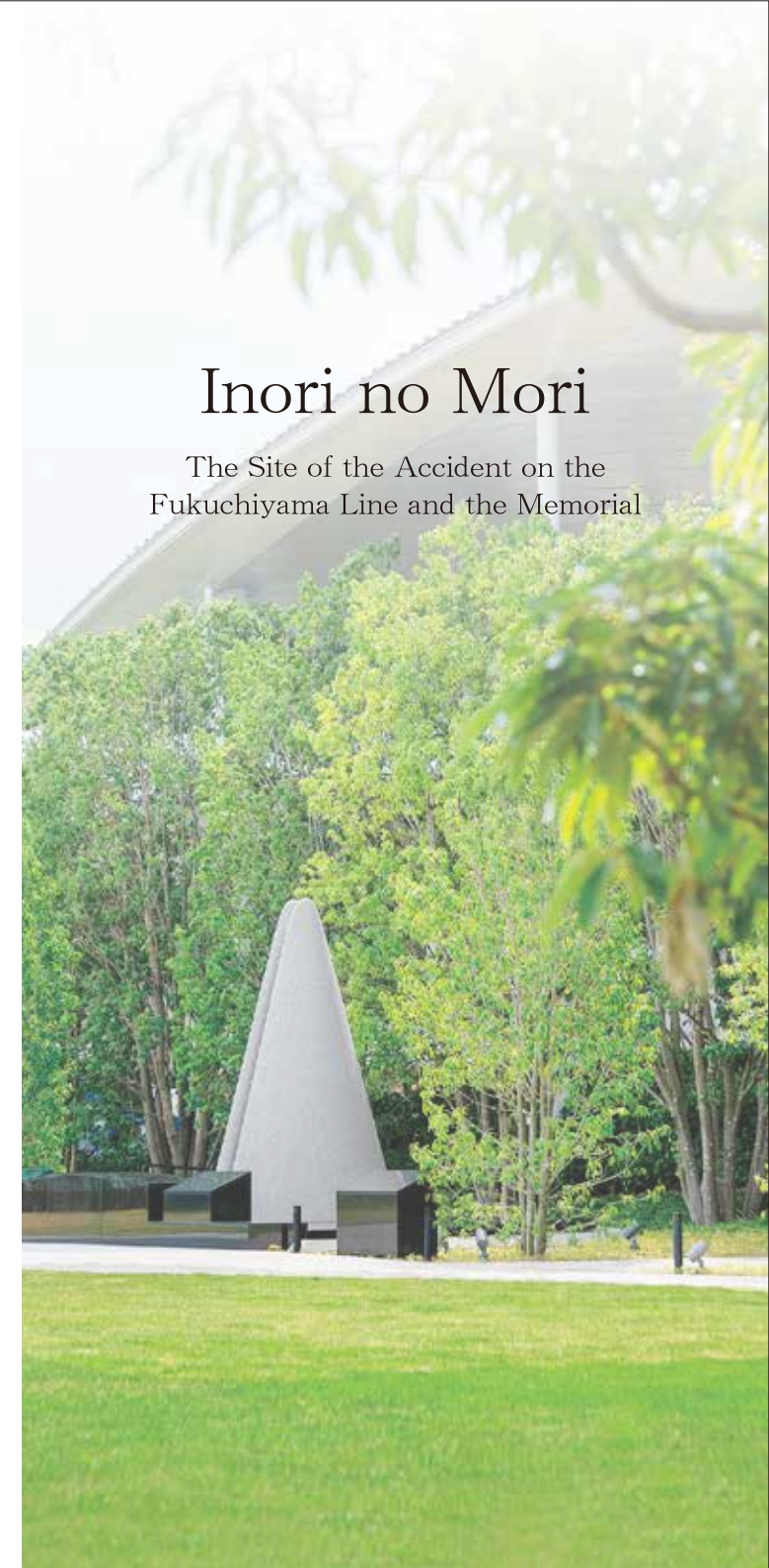


- Eating, drinking or smoking is only permitted in the rest area located inside the building.
- Please note that individuals disrupting others may be asked to leave.



Inori no Mori

The Site of the Accident on the
Fukuchiyama Line and the Memorial



The Accident on the Fukuchiyama Line

Date / Time

Monday, April 25, 2005 (approx. 9:18 am)

Location

Between Tsukaguchi Sta. and Amagasaki Sta., on the Fukuchiyama Line; Approx. 1,805m before Amagasaki Sta. (Kukuchi 3-chome, Amagasaki City, Hyogo Prefecture)

Trains Involved

Train No. 5418M (207 series electric train, 7 cars), rapid train from Takarazuka Sta. bound for Doshishamae Sta.

Summary

Between Tsukaguchi Station and Amagasaki Station, the train No. 5418M entered a rightward curve with a radius of 304 m at a speed of approximately 116 km/h, which was far higher than the specified speed limit of 70 km/h. As a result, the first car of the train overturned to the left and derailed. This was followed by derailment of the second to fifth cars. The first and second cars collided with an apartment building on the left side of the track (according to the direction of travel), causing severe damage.

This derailment claimed the lives of 106 passengers and the train driver, and injured 562 passengers as well as one passerby.

A cenotaph has been erected at the site of the accident to honor the memory and spirit of those who lost their lives. To ensure that the memory of the accident does not become lost to time, the location of the collision with the apartment building has also been preserved, including the area between the derailment site and the apartment building, and where emergency and rescue personnel worked to help those involved.

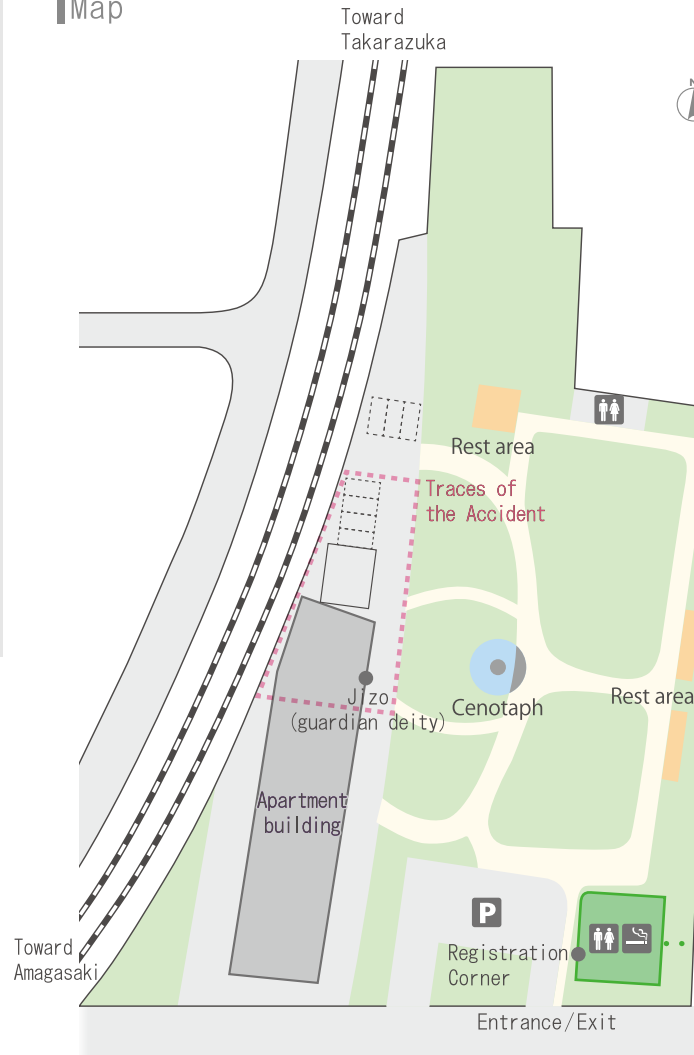
Nearby the cenotaph, a summary of the accident as well as the West Japan Railway Company's apology to the bereaved, reflections, and an oath of safety are also inscribed.

Cenotaph

Facing the site of the collision between the train and the apartment building, the cenotaph is meant to serve as an expression of reverent prayers for the souls of those who lost their lives.



Map



Memorial Corner



In honor of those who lost their lives in the accident, this area includes letters to the deceased from their bereaved families and close friends as well as various items donated in their memory.

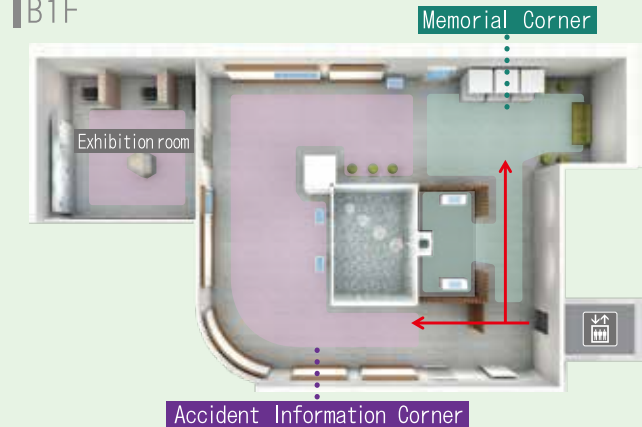
Accident Information Corner



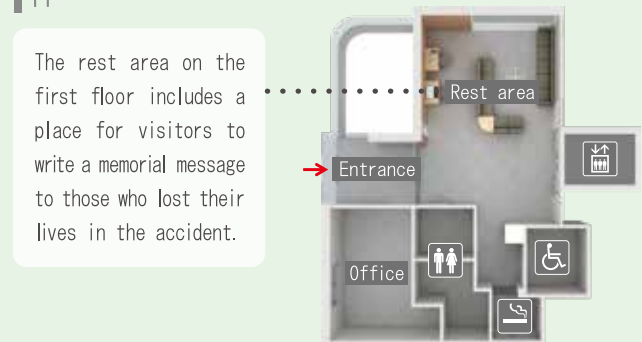
This area includes details about the accident, including the surrounding situation, various emergency and rescue activities, the cause, and reflections on the aftermath.

The exhibition room includes pictures captured after the accident as well as newspaper clippings, publications and other related media.

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The rest area on the first floor includes a place for visitors to write a memorial message to those who lost their lives in the accident.