

# Bulletin of General Information

## School minibus hit by a train Buggenhout - 26/05/2026

## DOCUMENT VERSION TABLE

Version number	Subject of revision	Date
1.0	First version	29/05/2026

*Any use of this report with a different aim than of accident prevention - for example in order to attribute liability - individual or collective blame in particular - would be a complete distortion of the aims of this report, the methods used to assemble it, the selection of facts collected, the nature of questions posed and the ideas organising it, to which the notion of liability is unknown. The conclusions which could be deduced from this would therefore be abusive in the literal sense of the term.*

*In case of contradiction between certain words and terms, it is necessary to refer to the Dutch version.*



# 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

## 1.1. NATURE OF THE EVENT

A school minibus was hit by a passenger train at a level crossing.

## 1.2. TYPE OF EVENT AND SAFETY INVESTIGATION

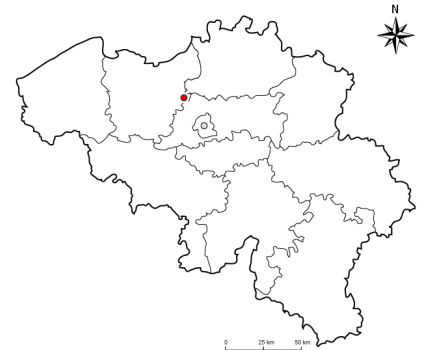
Accident with safety investigation.  
The safety investigation is ongoing.

## 1.3. DATE AND TIME OF THE EVENT

26/05/2026, at around 08:08 a.m.

## 1.4. PLACE OF THE EVENT

Weiveld in Buggenhout (East-Flanders).  
Level crossing 43 on line 53.



## 1.5. TRAIN

Passenger train L556 (Brugge – Mechelen, SNCB/NMBS), consisting of 3 carriages with around 80 to 100 passengers on board.

## 1.6. VICTIMS

Four people were killed and five were injured, two of them seriously.

## 1.7. DAMAGES AND CONSEQUENCES

The accident caused:

- damage to the school minibus;
- damage to the passenger train;
- damage to the infrastructure;
- train delays.

## 2. FACTS

On Tuesday 26 May 2026, at around 08:08 a.m., a school minibus turned left from Kerkhofstraat onto the level crossing 43 on line 53 in Buggenhout. The driver of the approaching passenger train at the level crossing performed an emergency braking but was unable to prevent a collision. The train collided with the school minibus; upon impact, the minibus was thrown several metres into the driveway of a nearby house. Of the nine passengers (including seven pupils) in the school minibus, four people were killed and five others were injured, two of them seriously.



## 3. INVESTIGATION

Investigators from the RAIU went to the scene of the accident to make initial findings and gather initial information.

The investigation is ongoing to determine the contributing, organisational and systemic factors that led to the accident.

**Rail Accident and Incident Investigation Unit**  
<https://www.raiiu.be>

