

## Egypt deadly train crash to kill 17

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Egyptian Ministry of Health announced that at least 17 people have killed when two trains collided outside of Cairo, Egypt, Saturday night, and officials expect the death toll to rise

Another 40 to 50 people were injured when one train traveling from Cairo to Asyut crashed into a train en route from Giza to Fayyoun, said Deputy to the Health Ministry Mohammed Sarhan.

Sarhan added that the Fayyoun-bound train was stationary when it was struck in Al-Ayyat district.

The collision occurred in Kafr Girza, a village in Al-Ayyat district of October 6th province, Nile News TV reported. Al-Ayyat is about 70 km (40 miles) south of Cairo.

The wreck's location posed a problem for emergency personnel, Sarhan said, because the site is next to a canal. Security forces used tree trunks and branches to create a bridge to the dead and injured. Some bodies were recovered from beneath the trains, he said.

People were still trapped beneath the wreckage late Saturday, Nile News TV reported. Some of the dead were found buried under the trains, Sarhan said.

Eighty ambulances were sent to the scene to transport the injured to local hospitals, government spokesman Ahmed Rady said in a statement.

The Transportation Ministry has ordered an investigation, Rady said. Government investigators are searching for the train's recorders, reported the country's official news agency, MENA.

Egyptian National Railways also launched an investigation into the collision of their trains, MENA said.

The governor of October 6th province ordered that families of the victims receive compensation, MENA reported. The Egyptian government has issued compensation to families of train crash fatalities and to those injured in crashes in the past.

Train disasters in Egypt over the past 12 years have killed hundreds.

In August 2006 at least 57 people died and 128 were injured when two passenger trains collided and burst into flames in Qalyoubiya Province, just north of Cairo. A month later three people died and 24 were injured when a cargo train collided with a passenger train in the same area.

More than 370 people died in February 2002 when a fire broke out near the rear of a passenger train en route to Luzzur from Cairo. At least 44 passengers died when they leapt from the burning cars while the train was still moving.

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