

LONDON COMMUTER TRAINS COLLIDE AT RUSH HOUR

[LONDON](#) (CNN) -- A shattering [train collision](#) near [Paddington Station](#) during rush hour Tuesday morning killed at least eight people and injured scores.

The crash happened in Ladbroke Grove in west London, about a mile (1.2 km) from Notting Hill.

"It was like being on a rollercoaster without seatbelts," said a woman who was a passenger on one of the trains. "Just a massive bang, and I felt the back of the train, the carriage go up, and over, and I was in a carriage, but it was completely on its side. Everyone got thrown over to one side."

Eighteen of the injured were seriously hurt, officials said. Officials said at least 160 people were injured, with 124 sent to area hospitals. Dozens of "walking wounded" were treated without hospitalization for minor injuries.

About five hours after the crash, police said that all surviving passengers had been pulled from the twisted and charred wreckage.

Stephen Stotson of the Transport Police said he believed the two crowded trains were traveling at a relatively slow speed when they struck about two miles (three km) outside Paddington Station, a major hub for passengers traveling to northern Britain.



Rescue workers carry away a survivor

The outbound train left Paddington Station headed west for about five minutes before the crash; the other train was carrying commuters into the British capital. The drivers of both trains reportedly survived the crash, but were injured.

It was not clear if the trains collided head-on; officials speculated that they did not.

After the crash, the front cars of the two trains were left skewered across the tracks, paint burnt off by an intense fire that swept through several carriages. Many of the more seriously injured suffered severe burns.



Rescue crews search an overturned train carriage following a crash in west London that killed eight people

"There were some really loud bangs. We went through, I can only describe it as a tunnel of fire. Both of the windows were completely encased in flames," another passenger reported. "And then there were some more loud bangs, and the carriage toppled over."

The fire was brought under control, and rescuers set to work to free survivors.



A man injured in the train crash speaks on a cellphone

GMTV news reporter Martin Frizell described the roads around the crash scene as "just a sea of ambulances and fire engines" after the collision.

St. Mary's Hospital, just a few hundred yards (meters) away from Paddington Station, said it had seen 46 injured passengers. It admitted 26 people, six with critical injuries. Eight hospitals were treating crash victims.

A spokesman for the commuter railway First Great Western Trains said the accident happened at 8:11 a.m. (0711 GMT). The crash involved a high-speed Great Western train London-bound from Cheltenham, in western England, and a Thames Trains train heading to Bedwyn, Wiltshire, west of London.

A Great Western train was also involved in Britain's last major train crash, a 1997 crash along the same stretch of rail. That accident killed seven people and injured 150 others. Great Western was fined a record 1.5 million pounds (\$2.4 million) after an investigation.

British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott expressed his government's condolences to the families of victims and said a public inquiry into the crash would be launched.

Prescott would not speculate on the cause of the collision. Consumer groups and regulators say Britain's rail system, privatized two years ago, cannot cope with passenger traffic that is growing faster than forecast. They are calling for more investment for train maintenance.

Summary

The story is about two trains, which crashed near Paddington Station on Tuesday. They crashed at around 7:11. A lot of passengers were injured and 8 people even died. They probably didn't think they would die on their trip back from home. It's not very pleasant dead. I wouldn't like to be on their place. Around 160 people were injured, 124 were sent to the hospital. Eight hospitals were treating crash victims. Eighteen of injured people were seriously hurt.

They say two trains were traveling at a relatively slow speed when they struck about two miles (3 kilometers) outside Paddington Station, a major hub for passengers traveling to northern Britain.