

PRESS RELEASE



Wednesday, November 6th, 2019

BAD WEATHER IN THE SOUTH WEST OF FRANCE RETURN TO NORMAL RAIL TRAFFIC BETWEEN SETE AND BEZIERS STARTING NOVEMBER 25TH

The unusual heavy rainfall of October 22nd and 23rd has caused important damages to the railway infrastructures in the departments of Aude and Hérault. The railbed and the severely damaged catenary systems for nearly one kilometer in the Villeneuve-les-Béziers area necessitated the total interruption of rail traffic.

RECONSTRUCTION WORK

Diagnoses conducted by the SNCF Réseau teams made it possible to assess the importance of the damage and to define the work and the schedule to rebuild the infrastructure. The platform on which the track rests has been washed away by the water for several hundred meters. These foundations must be completely rebuilt to grant the stability of the railway and the traffic security. These large-scale operations involve several weeks of intense work and extraordinary action.

The rail construction that has already started is carried out in several stages : removal of the railway track and connecting the catenary wires to the undamaged poles, earthworks, reconstruction of the railway platform, laying of the track and of new catenary poles.

Finally, all the entire security and signalling facilities will be checked according to the procedure before the resumption of rail traffic.

TRAFFIC RECOVERY SCHEDULE

Two railway lines are affected by the traffic interruption : the coastal line and the Béziers-Neussargues line.

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- On the coastline : Between Agde and Sète, train traffic will resume on 31st October.

Between Béziers and Agde, the most impacted section of track, rail traffic will resume on one track on 25th November and on two tracks on 2nd December. This schedule is communicated provided that no new major weather event affects the earthworks.

- Between Béziers and Neussargues, rail traffic will resume on November 3th.

ADAPTED TRANSPORT PLAN FOR TRAVELLERS MOVEMENTS

TER

A railway transport plan adapted to the situation has been adopted. Rail traffic is mainly scheduled during the flow times of passengers who travel on a daily basis from home to work or home to study.

Trains run in both directions on the lines :

Narbonne – Béziers, Sète – Montpellier and from 31st October on the **Agde-Montpellier line**.

Buses are available in the area of traffic interruption :

Béziers – Agde – Sète.

Buses are also available between **Narbonne / Béziers and Montpellier**

Road replacement solutions offer a partial answer according to the quantity of travellers using this line in normal circumstances.

Areas not affected by traffic interruptions and works on the railways are also impacted. Some trains left parked in Béziers are therefore unavailable. This requires the following transport plan :

Nîmes – Montpellier : 5 trains out of 6 run

Nîmes – Marseille : 2 round trips per day

INTERCITES TRAINS

INTERCITES trains are running on the **Bordeaux-Narbonne line**.

The night train **Cerbère – Paris** will run daily during the interruption of train movements.

TGV

High speed trains on the South east route have for departure and terminus Montpellier.

All high speed trains beyond Montpellier are closed for sale until December 2nd.

All our teams are mobilized as closely as possible to our travellers to help them with their travel in this unprecedented context.

Faced with end-to-end routing difficulties, we invite our travellers who can to postpone or cancel long distance travels.

All information and details of transport plans are available on our various passenger information channels :

On the web

TER : www.ter.sncf.com/occitanie

TGV – INTERCITES : <http://www.oui.sncf/>

On the phone

For Occitanie TER info traffic : (+33) 0
800 31 31 31

For Long Distance info : (+33) 0 805 90
36 35

On mobile phone

Download the SNCF application and stay informed in real time

On Twitter

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NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR FREIGHT TRAINS

Approximately 40 freight trains run every day between Béziers and Sète. These are the railway highways. Boulou-Bettembourg and Boulou-Calais and Freight trains connecting the Iberian peninsula to France, Italie, Germany and Belgium.

In order to ensure continuity of service for merchandise transport, arrangements are made since 23rd October in collaboration with European infrasrtucture managers :

- Daily situation points are achieved with the railway companies and with the different loaders,
- Freight customers determine which train they want to run as a priority and diversion routes are set up via the Atlantic route.
- Traffic on other trains is delayed.