

October 2010
update
Community Safety E-Newsletter



Welcome to the October 2010 edition of UPDATE, a monthly e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

This month's issue includes details of the Samaritans and Network Rail campaign 'Men on the Ropes' which was successfully launched at Waterloo Station in early September. We also look at some new initiatives around the industry from the British Transport Police and train operating companies.

UPDATE is a tool for promoting awareness of current initiatives and encouraging the adoption of good practice. If you have any stories to share about initiatives or events in your area, or would like to provide feedback on this issue, please contact: community.safety@rssb.co.uk

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Belinda Coleman, Editor.

Samaritans and Network Rail launch poster event at Waterloo Station

Waterloo Station transformed into a main boxing arena in early September when network rail joined forces with samaritans to launch the latest suicide prevention campaign.

Launched in the same week as World Suicide Prevention Day, the hard hitting campaign was targeted at combating suicide amongst men. The target audience was defined by research showing that men are three times more likely than women to take their own lives.

The advertising campaign, 'Men on the Ropes', aims to reduce the more than 4,000 male suicides that happen each year by persuading men in distress to talk about their problems and consider calling Samaritans' helpline.

Commencing in the morning peak hour at 08:30 hrs the two hour event saw a boxing ring in the exhibition space on the concourse at Waterloo.

Complete with ring girls, a ring announcer and sparring boxers the event showcased message cards encouraging men to talk or call the help line as well as regular announcements of the events key messages such as "Men it's time to start talking" or "Idle talk saves lives".

Samaritans boxer, Ricky Brown accompanied by poster boy David White, Welsh international rugby

referee Nigel Owens and former Premier League footballer Warren Aspinall represented the cause for the day.

Welsh International rugby union referee, Nigel Owens, who tried to take his own life, said "men from my town would just get on with things, you weren't even aware men had problems. My depression started because I didn't like who I was and I was too ashamed to talk to anyone. I let these feelings build up and up, and before I knew it I couldn't see a reason to live anymore, which is why I tried to take my own life.

Looking back there were people I could have and should have turned to. I think that if I had been able to talk to someone that day, I might not have attempted suicide. Today, I can't even find the words to explain how thankful I am that I am still here. That's why this campaign is so important; because it has the power to make men aware help is available and that they should use it."



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Waterloo passengers and members of the public stopped to observe the two minute rounds between Ricky and another actor dressed in a Samaritans outfit and watched carefully as each returned to their corner at the sound of a boxing bell to be given water, encouragement, having his brow mopped by two Samaritans volunteers in branded t-shirts.

David White, Nigel Owens and Warren Aspinall were available throughout the two hour period for interviews with the media about their stories, which included high profile coverage in The Guardian and The Sun.

A photocall event was also held that afternoon at Glasgow Central Station and again the following day

at Cardiff Central Station.

The events are aimed at drawing attention to Samaritans' partnership with Network Rail aimed at reducing suicides on the railways by 20% over a five year period. The work will be evaluated by RSSB through a research project, *T845 Improving suicide prevention measures on the rail network in Great Britain*, to determine the effectiveness of the campaign.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.samaritans.org/>

Operation Scarecrow continues to tackle trespass and vandalism in East Midlands

In the East Midlands area, Network Rail has combined forces with key industry partners to implement 'Operation Scarecrow' to tackle route crime. The initiative involves deploying teams to high-risk areas and acting as a visual deterrent to reduce the instances of trespass and vandalism.

Operation Scarecrow has now been running in the East Midlands area for eight years. The main purpose of this initiative is to try to prevent the public from the inherent dangers from trespassing and conducting acts of vandalism on the railway. This allows operators to run a more efficient service and free from delay.

The Scarecrow project is formed of two, two-man teams and works in partnership with other Network Rail functions, such as maintenance, train and freight operating companies, local authorities and both the British Transport Police and civil police. This has formed a critical mass in the area reducing the amount of reported trespass and vandalism incidents from over 1,200 per annum to 600, a reduction of 50% over 5 years.

A typical day for Scarecrow teams consists of: rapid response to all incidents of stone throwing, trespass, objects placed on the line, fatalities, barrier failures, points failures, signalling failures, broken rails, bridge strikes and animals on the line.

There is also a programme of regular visits to high trespass and vandalism areas in order to check and repair fencing, painting out graffiti on bridges and installing covert cameras, removing graffiti from bridge signs, speed signs and crossing signs and vegetation clearance.

The scarecrows also work closely with the British Transport Police to catch the offenders and download

camera footage for evidence in the prosecution of cases. They spend a lot of time talking to youngsters who they find on railway property and educate them in the dangers of the railway and encourage them to spread the word to their friends. When necessary the teams also arrange visits to their schools and encourage the schools to take a hard line approach to the issues.

As part of this operation, Scarecrows recently targeted rail crime offenders at Brickfields near Worcester, in an attempt to crack down on dangerous and illegal behaviour at a level crossing. In the last 12 months alone there have been more than 20 reported incidents, with a near-miss involving three youths early this year. The majority of the incidents recorded involved young people and included objects - including chains and padlocks - being left on the line, and children playing chicken.

Alan Milne, community safety manager, Network Rail, said: "Through their actions these people are risking serious consequences."

"We believe a more long-term solution needs to be progressed and we are talking with the local authority to close the crossing altogether, before a tragedy happens."

Sgt Mark Harris, British Transport Police, said: "British Transport Police is committed to working closely with Network Rail and colleagues across the rail industry to help make motorists and pedestrians more aware of Brickfield level crossing and to educate them to use it correctly and safely.

Longer trains for St Albans can help boost personal security

Rail Minister Theresa Villiers visited St Albans station in September to mark the completion of platform extensions which will allow longer trains to call at the station from December 2011.



When it comes to community safety higher capacity trains and longer platforms generally means fewer passengers waiting on platforms. This lowered level of crowding can lead to decreased levels of theft, assault against the community and rail staff and anti-social behaviour.

St Albans is the third station now ready for 50% longer trains as part of the Thameslink Programme, a £5.5bn investment which will significantly increase capacity across the 140-mile Bedford to Brighton route. The programme is funded by the Department for Transport and is being delivered by Network Rail in conjunction with First Capital Connect.

In total 12 stations outside central London will have their platforms extended – that's an additional 4km of extra platform and carriage space (twice the length of Luton Airport runway, or 34 football pitches laid end-to-end). The first of the longer 12-carriage trains will enter service in December 2011, with more to follow from a brand new fleet of trains.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/Main.php?sEvent=News&sFileName=News.php&iid=230>

Donation helps drive home rail safety to kids in Milton Keynes

Network Rail has joined forces with the Safety Centre in Milton Keynes to help teach young people about the dangers of trespass and vandalism on the region's railways.

The Safety Centre opened in 1994 as a partnership-based community safety project involving Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire and Rescue Service, health authorities, local government, other statutory organisations and the private sector. There is no funding from central government and so it relies heavily on donations and sponsorship.

Network Rail has donated £5,000 to fund a DVD which will be shown to children at the Safety Centre, reinforcing the lessons they learn when using the centre's realistic railway scenario. The key teaching points of the scenario focus on the dangers of going on or near the railway line and the dangers of high-voltage lines and cables.

The partnership coincides with Network Rail's nationwide No Messin'! campaign, which works with young people to help them understand the consequences of taking risks on railway lines. Earlier this year Network Rail revealed that more than 3,000 instances of trespass and vandalism were committed by young people in 2009, with many children risking their lives by taking shortcuts or playing on the railway.

Simon Whitehorn, area general manager for Network Rail, said: "I'm delighted to have this opportunity to visit the centre for myself and see the excellent work that goes on here. The kids react fantastically to the

interactive format of the different safety scenarios and it's clear they're learning some really important lessons.

"Given the close association that Network Rail now has with Milton Keynes I'm really pleased to present the centre with a donation of £5,000 towards the development and production of this DVD. The Safety Centre already does excellent work teaching children about staying safe when using the railway and the DVD will help reinforce that work with many more young people."

Jan Alder, director of the Safety Centre, said: "On behalf of the Safety Centre Trustees, staff and volunteers I would like to thank Network Rail for this donation which will help us not only to continue, but to improve delivery of our rail safety messages. We look forward to continuing our association for many years to come."

Since its inception the centre has had over 300,000 schoolchildren between the ages of seven and 12 receive the interactive safety messages covering twelve hazardous scenarios. The children are encouraged to identify everyday hazards and develop safe strategies to deal with potential emergencies, changing their behaviour to keep themselves and others safe.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/Press-Releases/DONATION-HELPS-DRIVE-HOME-RAIL-SAFETY-TO-MK-KIDS-153a/SearchCategoryID-8.aspx>

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Officers target anti-social behaviour in new patrol strategy

This month saw officers on the London Overground (LOROL) route launch its' new patrol strategy, targeting late night anti-social behaviour. Officers from the sector's three Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) – Barking, Camden and Highbury and Islington – teamed up with their Travel Safe Officer (TSO) colleagues to carry out high-visibility patrols to reassure and protect passengers who travel during the evening time.

Since early August, teams made up of two PCSOs and two TSOs have been patrolling various locations across the sector, with patrols taking place every Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 1900 and 0100. "The essence of this new strategy is to strengthen working relationships with our security colleagues,

share intelligence and address unacceptable behaviour which is often unchallenged, tolerated or ignored," said Sergeant Grieg Watkins, TSO co-ordinator.

"Being proactive and getting police and security officers to stop behaviour that causes misery to other passengers, will send out a robust message that BTP is taking positive steps to reduce anti-social behaviour on the railway." LOROL introduced 20 TSOs on its network last August to assist passengers and work with BTP officers to prevent anti-social behaviour on the network.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/content/default.aspx?NewsAreaID=2>

BTP neighbourhood police team encourage youngsters to swap the rail lines for in-lines at skate park event – Doncaster

British Transport Police (BTP) Neighbourhood Police Team, East Coast Trains and Tesco took advantage of a recent skatepark event held in Doncaster to encourage youngsters to get their skates on and stay off the tracks.

In a bid to tackle anti-social behaviour the event, run in partnership with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, looked to give children from the local community something to do during the summer holidays. Those who went along were given the opportunity to learn Parkour and street dance as well as using the skate park.

Over the past 12 months BTP and South Yorkshire Police have successfully operated a Section 30 Dispersal order covering Doncaster railway station, The Frenchgate Centre, The Bus Interchange, Minster Quarter and the immediate vicinity to help tackle problems of anti-social behaviour in the area.

The dispersal order grants police officers additional powers to deal with groups of youths whose presence may lead to anti-social behaviour.

Sergeant Steph Reynolds, of the Doncaster Neighbourhood Police Team, said: "We take anti-social behaviour on the railway very seriously in this area. We are encouraging young people who we have come across engaging in anti social behaviour round the station to get involved and try different activities and find new interests."

"With that in mind, we decided to host this event in order to address the issues of youth disorder and encourage youngsters to stay away from the dangerous rail tracks.

"It is a chance for young people in the area who may resort to messing or hanging about near the railway and endangering people's lives due to boredom, particularly in the long summer holidays, to get involved in an exciting and exhilarating challenge.

The main focus of the diversion event is to not only take action against young people who were found causing trouble, but to offer alternative pastimes for the youngsters to enjoy and engage in.

Sgt Reynolds added: "Neighbourhood Policing is all about tackling local problems with local solutions. It may be vandalism, graffiti, anti-social behaviour or even more serious crimes.

"We can then decide together what should be done to combat these issues, let people know what is being done and find out if they are satisfied with the solution."

A spokesperson for East Coast trains said: " We work closely with the British Transport Police to tackle anti-social behaviour on the railways, and East Coast sponsorship of this event is a great example of how rail industry partners can work together to give something back to the community, helping to keep youngsters off the railway lines and out of danger."

For more information please visit:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/content/default.aspx?NewsAreaID=2>

Young people reminded of behaviour code when taking advantage of Zip

Transport for London took advantage of young travellers signing up to their Zip Oyster card system by using the process to promote their code of behaviour with young Londoners and their parents.

Steve Burton, TfL's Director of Community Safety, Enforcement and Policing said "Young Londoners are being encouraged to enjoy the rest of their summer holidays to the full by signing up to Transport for London's (TfL) Zip Oyster photocard scheme".

This scheme gives young people the chance to make the most of living in London, whatever their economic background, and is something which more than half a million young Londoners have already benefitted from.

As part of the sign up process, applicants and their parents are obliged to read and acknowledge the Behaviour Code which has a key focus on anti-social behaviour, the treatment of other passengers and correct use of the card.

Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor of London's Transport Advisor, said: The Zip card allows young Londoners to explore all that our capital has to offer without making a big dent in their spending money. However in order to access this scheme parents and their kids need to make sure that they have applied and I urge them to do so.'

For more information please visit: www.tfl.gov.uk

News in brief

Manchester, United Kingdom: 59% don't recognise level crossing sign

An on-line survey of 1,000 motorists by Swinton Insurance has found that 59% of motorists don't recognise a level crossing warning sign.

Overall male motorists had a success rate of 85% and women 71%. In addition to a worryingly low score of 41% for the level crossing warning sign, only 8% correctly identified the meaning of the sign for a risk of grounding.

Steve Chelton, Insurer Development Manager for Swinton car insurance, said: "This survey has uncovered some rather startling results. All drivers should have comprehensive knowledge of the Highway Code and be able to recognise every single road sign, especially warning signs such as Level Crossing".



BTP's new approach to policing major rail hubs

British Transport Police has formed six new Hub Teams to police key transport interchanges across London.

The Hub Teams - made up of existing resources - now police London Underground and mainline stations at Stratford, Victoria, Euston, King's Cross, Finsbury Park and Waterloo.

The teams comprise a sergeant, police constables and police community support officers, and are responsible for all the crime and safety issues at their designated station.

Their focus is on problem solving and ensuring a highly visible presence at the hub at all times. They also work very closely with the Metropolitan Police teams that police the bus stations near to the rail stations.

For more information please visit: www.btp.presscentre.com

BTP Officers on hand at Waterloo to offer cyclists advice

British Transport Police (BTP) officers held a cycle surgery at Waterloo rail station in September to encourage owners of pedal cycles to ensure their property is secure. Officers gave out security advice at the three-hour surgery, as well as providing free identification cycle markings for bikes. They also checked bike racks and gave crime prevention advice for those owners who had not adequately locked and secured their pedal cycles.

PC Jerry Isterling said the rail network is one of the key areas targeted by thieves and this is compounded because many bike owners are not following simple measures to ensure they don't fall victim:

"A difficulty we face is that many people who ride bikes leave them at railway stations for very long periods of time, with some even owning two bikes and leaving them locked up overnight at stations," he said.

"Because of this, it's more important than ever for us to guarantee that cycle owners are educated and informed about how best to protect themselves from thieves.

"There are several steps people can take to make sure their bikes are adequately marked and secured to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of bike theft.

Mike Goggin, Network Rail's director of stations and customer services, said: "More and more passengers are looking to combine rail and cycling to make their daily journeys. As we continue to improve cycling facilities at stations across the network to make this easier, we encourage those who park their bikes at these locations to secure them properly to make it more difficult for would-be thieves."

For more information please visit: <http://rail-news.com/2010/09/07/btp-offices-on-hand-at-waterloo-to-offer-cyclists-advice/>

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Railway safety awareness team is 'highly commended'

The Chichester Railway Safety Awareness Team (CRaSAT) has been recognised for its outstanding work at a national awards ceremony.

CRaSAT was highly commended in the community engagement category at the recent Network Rail Partnership Awards held in Birmingham.

The Network Rail Partnership Awards recognise excellence and best practice across the railway industry. The community engagement category highlighted companies, charities or charitable giving programmes who have improved local communities in Britain.

CRaSAT raises awareness of railway and level crossing safety throughout the Chichester district and neighbouring districts.

The Team includes representatives from:

- Chichester District Council
- British Transport Police
- Sussex Police
- Network Rail
- Southern Railway

Clr Derek James, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety at Chichester District Council, says: "Congratulations to CRaSAT on being highly commended. It is fantastic that their efforts have been recognised nationally. We work closely with our partner organisations to educate young people about the dangers of trespass and

vandalism on the railway or misusing level crossings. This initiative helps reinforce this important safety message."



CRaSAT was set up in 2009 following a near miss incident and persistent level crossing misuse in the Chichester area. The Council ran a series of successful workshops and level crossing safety days. Following these, the Chichester Railway Safety Awareness Team was started.

The Team has visited and worked with a number of schools in the Chichester area. They include:

- Bourne Community College
- Bishop Luffa School
- Chichester High School
- Fishbourne School
- Chidham School

Bourne Community College in Southbourne played a pivotal role in helping to establish the team. The college continues to make a vital contribution to its ongoing development.

For more information go to

<http://www.chichester.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=15786>

or

<http://www.southernrailway.com/southern/news/southern-breaks-two-records-at-national-rail-awards/>

Overseas news

Level crossing safety is everyone's responsibility

The Australian Trucking Association (ATA) used National Rail Safety Week recently held in August to call on all trucking operators to make sure their drivers are reminded of the importance of safety at level crossings.

ATA Chief Executive, Stuart St Clair, said truck operators should use National Rail Safety Week, to talk to their drivers about safety around level crossings.

"On average there are 100 accidents at level crossings each year, which results in an average of 37 deaths. These accidents could easily be avoided if every road user, whether they are truck or car drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, give level crossings the respect they deserve," Mr St Clair said.

"That's why we are asking trucking operators to use this week to make sure all their drivers are aware of the rules when approaching level crossings."

The ATA recommended that truck operators remind drivers of the importance of stopping at level

crossings. Many accidents at level crossings occur because drivers have driven the route hundreds of times and relaxed their vigilance. The ATA has also encouraged drivers to 'stop, look, listen and think' when approaching level crossings that do not have active controls like flashing lights and boom gates; and make sure drivers, when using private and farm crossings (which are often gated), do not park on the lines to open or close the gate.

Mr St Clair said National Rail Safety Week was the perfect opportunity for everyone involved in transport to commit to improving safety at level crossings.

"The ATA has been very proactive in encouraging level crossing safety. Last year, the House of Representative's Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government backed an ATA recommendation for further research into the use of cut-in radio warning technologies at level crossings," Mr St Clair said.



“The technology would alert drivers at level crossings of an approaching train by cutting into the car or truck’s radio.

“As level crossings are the only place that road and rail traffic meet, it’s important that everyone works together to improve safety and reduce fatalities.

“To educate students across Australia, the ATA, together with the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB), have developed a display on the

dangers of level crossings. It has been installed in the ATA’s travelling road safety exhibition, The Road Ahead,” he said.

“The Road Ahead visits schools, communities and events across the country, providing advice about sharing the road safely with trucks – and trains - to young people who will soon be behind the wheel.”

**For more information please visit:
www.atatruck.net.au**

Community Safety Resource Centre

*****NEW! Material available to download*****

Since last month some changes have been made to the Community Safety Resource Centre website. Please visit the home page: **www.railcommunitysafety.com** and see the new information listed under the announcements section.

From this page, you can:

- Access Rail Personal Security Group presentations from the July meeting
- See new cable theft awareness details
- View the Rail Personal Security Group achievements since 2003
- Access all newly published research
- Review the updated statistics for Trespass, Suicide and Assaults
- View 2010 meeting dates and minutes for key industry groups

Future events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Public Transport Security 2010	<i>Thursday 14 October 2010</i>	Venue: London More info: http://www.europeanrailwayreview.com/events/upcoming-events/public-transport-security-2010#fragment-1
Foundation to Community Safety: Training Course	<i>Wednesday 27-28 October 2010</i> <i>Thursday 9-10 December 2010</i>	More info: http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm
Evaluation Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Communities Programmes	<i>Cardiff - 6 October</i> <i>Edinburgh - 12 October</i> <i>Dublin - 19 November</i> <i>Bristol - 8 December</i> <i>Liverpool - 14 December</i> <i>Belfast - 16 March 2011</i>	To book places onto these events, please email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com
Appraisal Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Development Programmes	<i>Cardiff - 8 October</i> <i>Edinburgh - 14 October</i> <i>Bristol - 9 December</i> <i>Liverpool - 15 December</i>	To book places onto these events, please email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com
Programme Management Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Communities Programmes	<i>Cardiff - 7 October</i> <i>Edinburgh - 13 October</i> <i>Bristol - 10 December</i> <i>Liverpool - 16 December</i>	To book places onto these events, please email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com
Introduction to Community Safety: Training course	<i>Wednesday 8 December 2010</i>	More info: http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm

National Railway Crime Hotline

0800 40 50 40