

February 2012
update
Community Safety E-Newsletter



Welcome to the February 2012 edition of UPDATE, an e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

In this issue we hear about a new British Transport Police operation to tackle cable theft, a new trauma support training course from the Samaritans and how Northern Rail are commissioning two films on railway issues written by final year university students.

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.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

Crime prevention minister launches new trial to help combat metal theft



Operation Tornado launch

A new partnership of police and metal recyclers is set to make it easier to trace sellers of stolen metal through an identification scheme. Operation Tornado is spearheaded by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Home Office, British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA), British Transport Police (BTP), and Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland Police.

Metal thieves have caused misery for thousands of people across the country and the railway has experienced significant issues for some time, where cable theft leads to significant delays, disruption and unnecessary cost, notwithstanding the risk associated with the actual theft activity, including trespass and vandalism. Throughout 2011 criminals have been diversifying and targeting metal from other areas, including power cables, utilities pipe work, telecommunications cabling, residential properties,

businesses and catalytic converters from vehicles. All affected industries are working together to tackle the problem, which is now a significant threat to the UK infrastructure.

Ten people have also died in the past year as a result of metal theft. Whatever the crime, the net result is the same – disruption to everyday life and severe cost to the local and national economy.

ACPO spokesperson Chief Inspector Robin Edwards said: 'As of 3 January 2012, those selling scrap metal to participating dealers in Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland will now be required to provide proof of their identity by producing either a photo card driving license including an address, or a passport or national ID card supported with a utility bill, which must be under three months old and show their address. This will remain in place for six months initially with the option to extend the term of the trial as it progresses'.

'The trial, which has been developed in partnership with the British Metals Recycling Association, is one of a number of measures that is currently being explored to restrict the sale and movement of stolen metal. It has been designed to remove unscrupulous dealers who operate outside the law.

'We are hoping that all the estimated 240 registered scrap metal dealers in the region will sign up to be



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involved in this trial to help fight the stolen metal trade and make it more difficult for thieves to make money by targeting our communities for metal.'



Lord Henley and senior officers discuss the trial with the Owner/ Director of International Waste Metals

Ian Hetherington, director general at the British Metals Recycling Association, said: 'Metals theft is a real problem for the metals industry and BMRA continues to advise government on the issue.

'BMRA and our members are actively supporting Operation Tornado. The measures being trialed are sensible and provide the basis for a reform of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act – which we all want.

'It's important to note that many of the problems encountered by legitimate metal recyclers lie with the ineffective enforcement of existing regulations and the proliferation of the illegal, unregulated trade, and not with the majority who operate highly regulated, licensed and permitted sites.

'This is an opportunity for the metals recycling industry to trial some of the strengthened measures being adopted coupled with what we hope will be robust police efforts to prevent legitimate business being diverted away from those applying the Operation Tornado measures and into the hands of non-compliant operators.

'BMRA fully supports a nationally coordinated approach from the police and the Environment Agency with stronger sentencing and appropriate penalties for those stealing metal and those setting out to dispose of it.'

For more information, please contact British Transport Police Pressdesk on 020 7267 6100 or email pressdesk@btp.pnn.police.uk

Trauma Support Training Course - Samaritans



On the railways there are on average 200 suicides a year. These impact on a wide range of people directly and indirectly, and the rail industry as a whole. Although much work has been put into preventing incidents, it is acknowledged that it is equally important to ensure that the trauma experienced after a suicide or other fatality is managed effectively.

Those involved in rail fatalities occasionally feel extremely guilty, as though they were responsible for the event, or could have done more to prevent it. Although such feelings are almost always misplaced, they can prolong the trauma experienced if not understood.

Managers and union representatives are ideally placed to help drivers and other staff to recover after experiencing a rail fatality.

The Trauma Support Training explains trauma and the different support strategies that can be used to help



those affected. Delegates gain a greater understanding of the potential impact of a railway fatality on staff and are equipped with techniques to assist recovery.

The Trauma Support Training is a Samaritans course, developed in conjunction with East Midlands Trains and ASLEF, endorsed by ASLEF and accredited by the Open College Network. The course lasts one day and is delivered at venues across the country.

For further details on this course and for course bookings, please contact railcompanies@samaritans.org

"All parts of the course were extremely useful for carrying out my duties as a Driver Team Manager, particularly the trauma stages, understanding what trauma actually is and how people react differently to situations."

Railway safety posters go on display at Euston



Two pupils from the Maria Fidelis School in Camden had their artwork displayed at Euston station after winning a competition to produce a railway safety poster for the festive season.

The winning posters by pupils Zuha Hassan and Morsale Ghafooryar remind passengers to stand back when trains approach and not to leave their bags

unattended. Year 11 student Zara Hassan also received a special commendation.

Steve Lewis, Network Rail's Euston station manager, said: 'We congratulate the winners and everyone who entered the competition. Safety is our number one priority and this initiative has been a great way to emphasise the importance of staying safe on the railway.'

Sergeant Pat Robinson, from the British Transport Police Euston Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: 'We're delighted to support this initiative and I'm sure these bright and colourful posters will go some way to reminding passengers of how to stay safe whilst on trains and at stations'

The competition with the Maria Fidelis School was organised by Network Rail in partnership with the British Transport Police, London Midland and Virgin Trains.

**For more information, please contact: Sam Kelly, Media Relations Manager, Network Rail:
Tel: 020 3356 9164**

Young people deliver Haverfordwest station improvements project



Eight young people from Pembrokeshire have helped deliver environmental improvements at Haverfordwest railway station in a partnership project involving Arriva Trains Wales and Pembrokeshire County Council Children's Services.

At the end of last year, the team of young people and their supervisor worked with Arriva employees to repaint eight concrete

flower planters, plant new shrubs, repaint the seats on the platform and paint the canopy supports and windows on one of the platforms. Further works are proposed at Haverfordwest and other Pembrokeshire stations during 2012.

As part of the restorative justice system, the young people participated in the project as part of their community reparation. More than 90 hours of work was completed at the station, which sees more than 140,000 passenger journeys a year.

Speaking at the station, the Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Councillor David Pugh, said: 'The project enabled the large number of young people engaged in the work to learn new skills and disciplines and participate in a useful local community project.'

'Furthermore they were able to complete their reparation promptly within their local community – a very visible form of payback. Pembrokeshire County Council, after this successful start, is looking to continue working with Arriva Trains and improve the appearance of other rail stations in Pembrokeshire.'

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: 'During the four weekends spent on the project, their efforts have helped make a noticeable improvement to the general appearance of the station, which has been well received by local rail users.'

He continued: 'Projects such as this can help young people make a valuable positive contribution to their local community. They have also been given the opportunity to learn new skills and gain work experience which they may not otherwise have had. This can then help with future employment aspirations.'

**For more information, please visit:
<http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/Templates/News.aspx?pageid=3151>**

Screenwriters ride train to victory



Budding young Spielbergs from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) are about to see their names up in lights.

Northern Rail has commissioned two films from the final year screenwriting students.

Both films will be produced with a budget of £10,000, which is being provided by the major train company.

The films are expected to be seen by an audience of 500,000 people and will be made by media professionals in consultation with the winning students.

Students were invited to pitch their ideas in a special competition and judges were so impressed with the Preston entries they altered the rules and chose two winners.

Besides seeing their films made, Charlotte McGrady and Jethro Sida - whose film is entitled *Drinking and Transport* - and Sorrell Blammon, who wrote *Yellow Line*, will each receive a year's free Northern Rail Pass, a £25 bonus bond voucher and a crystal vase.

Jethro, 21, from Cornwall, said: 'When I was commuting I would see violence, truancy and vandalism on train stations on a daily basis. We wanted our idea to show how alcohol affects people's behaviours and how that has a real impact on everyone else around them.'

Twenty-year-old Charlotte, from Liverpool, added: 'This isn't a stop drinking film; it's all about raising

awareness. It's fantastic to win and is a real high towards the end of our time at UCLan.'

Sorrell took inspiration from her daily commute from Manchester. The 20-year-old said: 'People are always pushing to get near the train and never take any notice of the yellow safety line on the floor. I wanted to highlight how important it is because accidents could so easily happen and they could be fatal.'

She added: 'I was shocked and totally surprised but it's a great boost for my confidence to know my work was worthy of winning a prize and will now be seen by so many people.'

Course leader Bill McCoid was very proud of the students' achievements. He said: 'I am delighted that the talent and hard work of so many of our students has been recognised. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Northern Rail.'

Northern Rail's community safety manager David Wilkinson added: 'The pitches made by UCLan screenwriting students were absolutely fabulous, so much so that we decided to make two of the ideas rather than one.'

'We also gave awards to those who were shortlisted.'

Shortlisted were:

- Barbara Wilcox for 'Parents'
- Luke Knowles for *Play Safe Live*
- Sheraz Ahmed 'So Much Ahead of You'
- Alistair Cave 'YouTube Hits'
- Gavin Cutter 'Football Pitch'
- Joe Guy 'What's your Destination?'
- Laura Wright 'Choose Life'
- Matthew Edwards with 'Two Worlds Collide'.

For more information:

http://www.uclan.ac.uk/schools/adp/screenwriters_ride_train_to_victory.php

Man jailed for 11 months for trespass, assault and criminal damage - Broxbourne

A persistent trespasser has been jailed for 11 months after continually forcing open the doors of trains and disembarking at Slipe Lane level crossing, Broxbourne.

Haydn Jervis (19), of Silverdale, Lewisham was sentenced at St Albans Crown Court at the end of last year following a British Transport Police (BTP) investigation.

At an earlier hearing Jervis pleaded not guilty and was subsequently convicted of three counts of obstruction, one of criminal damage, and one of common assault. At court he also received a two-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO), restricting his movements on the railway and within Broxbourne.



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The court heard how between December 2010 and May 2011, Jervis would travel on trains through Broxbourne and, when the train approached Slipe Lane level crossing, force the doors open, causing an emergency stop, before getting off and walking alongside the tracks in order to take a shortcut.

Jervis was arrested in May 2011 and during a search of the premises officers found clothes that Jervis had been wearing during his trespass offences.

PC Tim Hewitt, the investigating officer for BTP, said that CCTV proved invaluable to the investigation: 'Jervis' actions were clearly picked up on CCTV. His clothing was also recognisable and a hat he was wearing, which was seized on the day of his arrest, proved to be vital as it matched the one he was wearing during one of the incidents.

At sentencing Judge Bright QC described the incidents as 'a catalogue of appalling behaviour', and said that Jervis showed 'total disinterest with complying with the law'.

PC Hewitt added: 'What's worse is that Jervis did not take his offences seriously and failed to recognise how dangerous his actions were or how much disruption he had caused to the railway network.

'Fortunately the courts were not so flippant and he was handed a jail term to reflect the severity of his actions.

'This sends a clear message that causing obstruction of a train can result in imprisonment, which reflects the severity in which this criminal behaviour is viewed.'

For more information, please visit: <http://www.btp.presscentre.com/Photo-Library/MAN-JAILED-FOR-11-MONTHS-FOR-TRESPASS-ASSAULT-AND-CRIMINAL-DAMAGE-BROXBORNE-1efb.aspx>

Network Rail closes 500th Level Crossing



Network Rail has closed 500 level crossings across Britain since April 2009 and intends to close a further 250 by 31 March 2014.

This marks a significant milestone in the company's programme to close as many user worked crossings as possible and reduce the level of risk on the network where roads and pathways cross the railway.

User worked crossings are mostly private crossings, not public rights of way, and while mainly located in rural areas, many cross busy main lines. The barriers or gates need to be operated by the person crossing and not the railway and warning measures include

miniature warning lights, signs or telephones. In many cases an alternative access for the user is either available or has been provided to secure closure.

Robin Gisby, managing director for network operations for Network Rail said: 'In closing these 500 crossings we have removed the risk of a vehicle or person being struck by a train at these locations and improved safety across the network for everyone working or travelling by rail. While this is good progress, there is much more to be done. We will be working to further improve other crossings across the network and continue to raise awareness of the dangers of misuse.

'Closing a level crossing is not always an easy process, and we often need the support of land owners, local authorities and users. I hope we can count on their continued support as we look to improve safety and modernise the rail network for the future.'

For more information, please email: mediarelations@networkrail.co.uk

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Rail CEO's announce establishment of Australian 'Rail Safety Foundation'

At the end of last year, Rail CEO's announced the establishment of the first national rail safety Foundation, the trackSAFE Foundation.

The foundation will focus on four key areas: railway level crossing safety, trespass, suicide on the rail network, and the resultant trauma of these three factors on rail industry staff.

trackSAFE will pool industry funding, resources, knowledge and experience to take a holistic approach to rail safety in Australia.

Lance Hockridge, Managing Director and CEO of QR National and Chairman of the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) welcomed the Foundation, saying it will drive behavioural change in the community and save lives of young people, motorists and pedestrians who take risks around railways.

'Unfortunately, every year people are tragically and needlessly killed at level crossings or when trespassing across railways.

'As a community, this is unacceptable. The ARA is

calling for a collective effort involving the rail industry, road authorities, and health and education experts to tackle the issues and develop strategies that will work.

'The Foundation will also help rail industry employees who are impacted and traumatised by incidents on the rail network and become the silent victims in these tragedies.'

First year activities of the foundation include: a targeted media campaign; the development of a rail safety education package to be implemented into the national curriculum; a rail network suicide prevention program in conjunction with LifeLine and beyondblue; and research into the best possible ways to alleviate and mitigate rail industry trauma.

The trackSAFE Foundation will not take away from the effective state-based rail safety initiatives already in place, but rather build on these and spread best practice across the industry.

The official trackSAFE Foundation Launch will take place at the annual Rail Safety Conference in Sydney in March 2012.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.ara.net.au/site/tracksafe.php>

Events Diary:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
A New Approach to Takling Anti-Social Behaviour	8 February 2012, London	For more information or to book a place go to http://www.policycommunications.co.uk/events/asb/index.html
Community Rail in the City	7 March 2012	For more information, please visit: http://www.acorp.uk.com/events.html
Community Safety Forum 2012	29 March 2012, London	For more information, please email: Kerry.dolan@rssb.co.uk
International Level Crossing Awareness Day	7 June 2012	For more information, please visit: http://www.ilcad.org/ILCAD-2011.html
National Station Adoption Seminar	18 July 2012, Manchester	For more information, please visit: http://www.acorp.uk.com/events.html
Community Rail Awards 2012	28 September 2012, Swindon	For more information, please visit: http://www.acorp.uk.com/events.html
Community Rail Festival 2012	29 September 2012, Bristol/Westbury	For more information, please visit: http://www.acorp.uk.com/events.html
12th Global Level Crossing Symposium (incl. Trespass)	7 – 12 October 2012, London	For more information, please visit: http://www.levelcrossing2012.org
Lone Worker Safety 2012: Conference and Exhibition	27 November 2012, Olympia, London	For more information, please visit: http://www.oneworkersafetyexpo.com/
National Community Safety Network Annual Conference	tbc	To register an interest, please visit: ncsn2012@community-safety.net