

September 2010
update
Community Safety E-Newsletter



Welcome to the September 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Belinda Coleman. Belinda will be joining RSSB from 9 September as an interim Community Safety Programme Manager, covering my role whilst I am on maternity leave. Belinda will be responsible for the production and further development of this newsletter, along with other activities including the annual industry forum and educational websites. Please welcome Belinda as the interim editor for UPDATE.

Please continue to provide your stories and feedback so that we can work together to share good practice and

experiences. Belinda is looking forward to building new relationships with you all and exploring ways in which she can help community safety practitioners to reduce community safety related risk on the railways.

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.

Schoolchildren get high impact rail safety message



Stay off the rails – that was the simple and stark warning British Transport Police (BTP) sent to schoolchildren from the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Swindon and Worle, near Weston-super-Mare, at a recent special event.

In partnership with Network Rail and local emergency services, BTP had around 1,500 youngsters aged 12-15 from the West Midlands area witness explosions, fires and train crashes – all of which were staged by BTP to highlight the shocking consequences of playing on or near railway lines.

BTP receives reports almost every day of youngsters involved in line of route offences. These include:

trespassing by running across the tracks; endangering safety by sitting on the edge of platforms with their legs dangling over the edge; throwing stones and other missiles at passing trains; spraying graffiti or placing obstructions such as bikes, shopping trolleys or concrete blocks on the line.



BTP first organised the innovative Off the Rails project in July 2008, which saw around 400 schoolchildren witness a mock train crash caused as a result of youngsters - played by actors – messing around on a railway line. It was the first time a project to educate children on the dangers of the railway had been held



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on such a scale, and it gained widespread media coverage locally and nationally.

Following on from this success, BTP recently hosted 'Off the Rails 2' – this time with a total of around 1,500 youngsters witnessing four separate railway-related incidents in a bid to educate them fully about rail safety.



The project was the brainchild of Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Dan Luczak of BTP's Neighbourhood Policing Team which regularly attends school assemblies and has launched competitions at schools in an effort to educate children about the dangers of the railway environment.

This year's Off the Rails 2 event saw BTP and partner organisations including Network Rail, Motorail

Logistics, West Midlands Fire Service, Warwickshire Fire Service and West Midlands Ambulance Service, stage the following four hard-hitting mock-up disasters:

1. **On board fire – Smoking Inferno**
2. **Electrocution – The Shocking Truth**
3. **Obstruction – Train smashes into debris placed on line**
4. **Train crash at level crossing – Major incident: Off the Rails**

Inspector Lee Gordon, of British Transport Police, said: "Our key aim was to teach young people to think before playing on railway lines.

"Police and our partners taking part in Off the Rails 2 hoped that by re-enacting four major route crime incidents, as realistically as possible, young people will see serious consequences of committing route crime offences and learn about the impact their actions might have on themselves, their families and other people."

For more information, please contact:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

Flowers are blooming thanks to community safety efforts at Great Yarmouth

Research has shown that customers feel a greater sense of personal security and more confidence in travelling by rail if the environment feels welcoming and safe. This helps boost the level of trust and respect between rail staff and passengers and reduce the risk of community safety incidents.

Earlier this summer National Express East Anglia (NXEA) held a Community Day at Great Yarmouth station.

NXEA staff, local residents and representatives from Great Yarmouth Borough Council and BBC Radio Norfolk gave up their own time and worked together to undertake further improvements at the station. Volunteers put on their gardening gloves and took up their trowels to plant flowers donated by Highway Garden and Leisure in the station flower tubs. The group also worked together to 'spring-clean' areas of the station and surrounds, helping to present a more welcoming environment for visitors and rail passengers.

James Steward NXEA Area Manager said:

"I would like to thank everyone who took part in our Community Day and I'm grateful for the sterling work of all who participated. The station is now a brighter

and more welcoming environment for all who visit it. The flowers provided by Highway Garden and Leisure are a great addition to the station and make a really colourful display.

"We will continue to explore other opportunities for further improvement at Great Yarmouth station."

The progress made at the Community Day compliments work undertaken by train operator NXEA in recent months at the station, including the installation of new station signage, poster boards and new litter bin holders throughout the station. Additional vegetation and litter clearances have also taken place and a new recycling scheme has been introduced. In addition, NXEA has worked in partnership with Norfolk County Council to install a new customer information screen situated at the alternative entrance / exit to the station, to provide more comprehensive access to information about train arrivals and departures at the station.

For more information, please visit: http://www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com/about_us/press_centre/latest_news/flowers_are_blooming_thanks_to_community_day_efforts_at_great_yarmouth

BTP Neighbourhood Police Team help youngsters swap the rail tracks for bike tracks - Leeds

British Transport Police (BTP) Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) encouraged youngsters to swap the rail tracks for bike tracks by hosting a BMX competition.

The event took place at Micklefield Park and was organised by the NPT based in Leeds after youngsters in the area complained of having nothing to do, often resorting to playing near the rail lines.

There have been reports of route crime on the railway in the area, with obstructions left on the track, stone throwing and arson attacks, including six cars set alight. The BMX competition was designed to divert youngsters away from dangerous criminal activities to more constructive and creative interests.

Sergeant Mark Burgess, of the NPT, said "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."

Councillor Judith Blake, Leeds City Council's executive member for children's services, said: "It is encouraging to see that the NPT are seeking to deal with such a potentially dangerous situation in such a positive way.

The competition was also supported by West Yorkshire Police and Fire service, Micklefield parish council, Leeds city council, Signpost and Help for Heroes.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/Media-Releases>

Street stencils support teens road safety campaign

It's not just the railway that tries to grab young people's attention to safety messages. Arguably the roads present a much bigger risk with many more people dying on the roads than on the railway. So what lessons can be learned from road sector safety campaigns?

Transport for London (TfL) is reaching out to the Capital's teens as part of its summer road safety campaign by placing thought provoking stencils in parks across London.

The initiative has been taken to areas such as skate parks popular with young people to reach teenagers while they socialise with friends.

The strapline 'Think! Look out for your mates' has been situated in popular meeting places from 20 July and aims to get teens actively thinking about the issue of road safety.

The stencils are part of a road safety campaign being promoted across London this summer, as TfL aims to reduce the number of teens killed or seriously injured on the Capital's roads.

Posters have been up across the Capital since mid June and TfL has been working with a number of pop artists as well as Premiership football clubs to promote the campaign's key messages.

'Think! Look out for your mates' can be seen in Parsloes Park, Biggin Hill Recreation Ground, Finsbury Park and Hammersmith Park.

Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor's Transport Adviser, said: "It is crucial we keep coming up with new innovative approaches to highlight to young people the need to keep safe on our roads, and this projects is just one of a whole range of ways in which we are aiming to do that.

"It is vital that, while the number of teenagers being killed or badly hurt on London's roads is falling, we keep working hard to get the message across."

Lilli Matson, Head of Modal Policy at TfL, says: "These stencils really bring the campaign to life in the Capital's play areas, where teens congregate naturally.

"We hope that the 'Look out for your mates' message reaches them loud and clear, that it spreads through word of mouth and that it helps to reduce the number of teens killed or seriously injured."

Teenagers are the most vulnerable age group when it comes to road accidents in the Capital. This is largely because of the growing independence young people have as they start travelling on their own to secondary school and spending more time with their friends.

Last year's road casualty figures show that 301 teenagers (aged 13-19) were killed or seriously injured on London's roads last year, compared with 367 in 2008. Overall the number of teenagers killed or seriously injured has fallen by almost 55 per cent since 2000.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/3119.aspx>

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Colourful artwork arrives on Platform four at Bolton station

Community safety isn't just about tackling the negative consequences of crime, it can be as much about building positive relationships with young people at the outset.

Earlier this year, Bolton station's platform four saw a different kind of arrival after a group of 25 boys, aged 13 and 14, spent a weekend creating a piece of colourful artwork.



The boys, who all live in east Bolton, travelled to Urbis in Manchester and worked on the project with artist Phil Towers and a forensic artist.

The artwork is made up of six boards each featuring a letter to spell Bolton and has images of things they link to the town.

The artist returned to the station for the official unveiling. The artwork is currently taking pride of place on platform four, but will be moved to a more prominent location as part of the station's refurbishment.

Abi Robertson, community project co-ordinator, said: "The project has gone really well. The boys all have really strong ideas and have worked well together. The artwork will really brighten up the station."

The six-month scheme, named Reclaim (aimed at getting troubled teens on the right path), is being run by Urbis, Northern Rail and British Transport Police to empower young people to get involved in their community.

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

BTP takes pride in latest Liverpool operation

August saw a special team of British Transport Police (BTP) officers deployed to work during the first Liverpool Pride festival.

Officers were on hand at stations across the city to ensure people using the railway could travel to and from the event safely and peacefully.

Inspector Lorna McEwan, who oversaw the operation for BTP, said: "This was the first official Pride event for Liverpool and we wanted to do our bit to make sure it went without a hitch.

"We carried out a lot of work with the LGBT community and earlier this year launched a remote reporting scheme to make it easier to report hate crime to BTP.

"Our activity during the Pride festival furthered this work and underlines our commitment to providing a policing service for everyone who uses the railway."

As well as providing a visible presence at Liverpool's stations, BTP officers hosted a special drop in surgery at Moorfields to highlight the diversity work carried out by the force as well as providing a one-stop shop for advice and guidance for festival goers and other visitors to the city.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.btp.presscentre.com/>

British Transport Police (BTP) and train companies team up to tackle football-related disorder on the railways

Last year saw a 49% rise in the number of football-related offenders dealt with as BTP and operators worked together to target disorder proactively, and they are determined to do more and make trains even safer this season.

The vast majority of travelling fans are law-abiding and present no problems, but a small minority continues to cause disruption on some services.

In 2009/10, there were 68 serious football-related

incidents, 21 assaults on police, and 582 anti-social behaviour incidents reported overall.

With rail crime falling this year for the sixth year running, trains are increasingly safe, but both BTP and operators want to send a message out to fans and passengers alike that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.



BTP, football clubs and operators will be using a number of measures to tackle football-related offences on rail this season:

- Running 'dry trains' on which alcohol is banned, when intelligence from BTP indicates that alcohol may contribute to disorder.
- Use of CCTV to spot potential problems.
- Sharing intelligence to identify potential hot spots.
- A code of conduct which sets out the expected behaviour of fans travelling on trains has been developed and adopted by a number of operators.
- A growing number of football clubs are working with BTP to help tackle anti-social behaviour, for instance by revoking season tickets.

Football Banning Orders remain a powerful weapon in combating football-related anti-social behaviour. Seventy-six were obtained in 2009/10, 18 of which were 'on complaint' meaning that no criminal conviction had to be obtained. These orders last for a minimum of three years and often have conditions attached keeping potential troublemakers off the rail system.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Thomas says: "It's unacceptable that other passengers and rail staff should have to suffer disruption and abuse.

"I want to warn those who think they can behave badly

with impunity that the number of offenders caught last year was up almost a half and our focus this year is on bringing even more to account, as well as continuing our work with the train operators and clubs to tackle the problem. It is a small minority of fans that causes the problems and I would appeal to the vast majority of law abiding supporters to help us deal with them."

Successes of last year's proactive approach included:

Problems experienced in 2008/09 on the East Coast Mainline involving Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Newcastle United fans were not repeated in 2009/10, and proactive policing in Wales significantly diminished the risk posed by some Cardiff City fans.

In Scotland, following incidents with fans chanting sectarian abuse, a series of formal information sharing protocols has been signed with clubs. These give BTP a mechanism for informing a club of any individuals who come to notice and allow free flow of information. Most of the top Scottish clubs have signed up to the scheme.

For more information, please contact:

**The BTP National Pressdesk on 020 7267 6100
pressdesk@btp.pnn.police.uk**

Northern's Community Safety Manager receives award



David Wilkinson Northern's Community Safety Manager received a British Transport Police Area Commander's Certificate of Commendation in the annual ceremony in Manchester for the British Transport Police North West Area.

Certificates are awarded by the Area Commander to police officers, railway staff and members of the public who have shown special zeal, courage, skill and resourcefulness in the detection of crime or some other form of police work.

David's award, one of only 18 this year in the Area,

was presented to commend him for his excellent efforts in tackling youth related anti-social behaviour on the railway between Altrincham and Knutsford. The commendation goes on to say, "Through your initial efforts, effective partnerships involving Northern, local school and the British Transport Police were established. As a result, the problem on this line of route has been greatly reduced, and the partnership initiatives have been recognised nationally and are being trialled at other locations. You tackled this problem by becoming the focal point for partnership work involving such agencies as local police, local schools, local council departments and industry stakeholders".

Martyn Guiver, Head of Crime Management said, "This is an excellent achievement for David, our team and the business as a whole and as David has only been with us for just over a year, this is testament to the excellent work we are doing in Community Safety."

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.northernrail.org/>

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Rewards on offer for cable theft info

Rewards of up to £1,000 are on offer to people who provide information about railway cable theft which results in a conviction.

The renewed offer of rewards comes on the back of seven months of increasing metal prices on world markets which have resulted in a similar rise in the number of thefts of rail and cable.

Superintendent Simon Jones, of British Transport Police, said: "Cable theft is one of the biggest issues currently facing the rail industry.

"Each year the actions of the thieves cost Network Rail hundreds of thousands of pounds in repairs and result in countless delays and cancellations and huge associated compensation costs.

"This has been a particular problem in the north east of England which, since the start of 2010, has seen a marked increase in the number of thefts committed on the railway."

The significant rise in the number of incidents recorded by BTP this year has culminated in a new record being

set in April when just less than 300 incidents were reported across the country during the month.

Supt Jones added: "BTP, in partnership with Network Rail, has developed a number of tactics to tackle cable and metal theft, including frequent visits to scrap metal dealers and the instigation of Operation Drum which has seen officers across the country specialising in the investigation of cable theft.

"These have yielded significant results, but now we are, once again, calling on the public to help by providing us with information about thefts and those engaged in criminal activity.

"Cable theft is far from a victimless crime and, aside from the cost to the industry, causes misery and major issues for countless people whose journeys – some of which could be vitally important – are hampered by the resulting delays and cancellations."

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.btp.presscentre.com>

News in brief

Three more stations receive safety award

The staff at Hastings, St Leonards Warrior Square and West St Leonards have received a Secure Station award for station safety. Bellingham station has also recently received the award. The awards, part of the Secure Stations Scheme managed by the Department

for Transport and British Transport Police, is in recognition of hard work to ensure a safe environment for passengers and staff when using the station.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/>

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

Community Safety Resource Centre

please visit: **www.railcommunitysafety.com**

Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Introduction to Community Safety: Training Course	Tuesday 7 September 2010 Wednesday 8 September 2010	More info: http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm
Westminster Briefing: Crime and Disorder on Public Transport: Making Journeys Safer	Wednesday 15 September 2010	Venue: Westminster More info: http://www.westminster-briefing.com/
Programme Management Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Communities Programmes	Newcastle - 15 September	To book places onto these events, please email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com
Appraisal Training for Neighbourhood Renewal, Community Safety and Sustainable Development Programmes	Newcastle - 16 September	To book places onto these events, please email neighbourhoodjournal@googlemail.com
Foundation to Community Safety: Training Course	Wednesday 29-30 September 2010	More info: http://www.community-safety.net/main-community-safety--crime-and-disorder-training.htm

Future events:

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

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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