

# April

# update



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the April 2007 edition of UPDATE, a monthly e-newsletter produced by Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

I am delighted to announce that the Railway Community Safety Forum that took place at Aston Villa Football Club on 14 March was a great success. Thanks must go to everyone that participated! A summary of the day's activities can be found in the newsletter including details of how to get access to the presentation and exhibition material.

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](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk) or 020 7904 7674

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE

Best wishes, Kerry Taylor, Editor.

## ► Community Safety Forum

On Wednesday 14 March 2007, over 135 community safety practitioners attended the 3rd Annual Railway Community Safety Forum at Aston Villa Football Club in Birmingham. The forum, organised by Rail Safety and Standards Board on behalf of the industry gave delegates a unique opportunity to hear about the rail industry's approach to community safety, share examples of good practice and observe practical ideas and solutions.

James Burt, Operations Director, South West Trains opened the event expressing his delight at seeing so many people with the same desire to reduce crime on the railways and the effects it had on passengers, staff and the community at large. James reiterated that the main theme for the event was working in partnership within the rail industry, with local communities and with colleagues outside the industry.

Following the opening presentations, delegates were given the opportunity to attend a series of workshops focussing on community safety legislation, the BTP railway safety accreditation schemes and other complementary policing schemes and the use of diversionary activities with young people.

In contrast to previous forums, delegates were given an entire workshop session to view the exhibition area and to speak with colleagues manning the stands about the different campaigns



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

and initiatives being showcased. The 2007 exhibition highlighted several campaigns, including work being delivered by the British Transport Police (BTP), Network Rail, Northern Rail, Southern, South West Trains (SWT), the Samaritans, Merseyrail, Transport for London (TfL), First ScotRail and Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB). Delegates had the opportunity to meet the BTP drugs dog, be scanned by the metal detectors used in operation shield and hear about how the automatic number plate recognition system could be used to tackle railway crime such as cable theft. Yvonne Ball from the wrestling association and Gary Elliston from RightTrax were also on hand to explain their roles in the Network Rail No Messin' campaign days. In addition there were interactive elements to the exhibition including a laptop demonstration of how lesson plans are used with white board technology in the classroom – a key resource that is available through the industry's education website – [www.trackoff.org](http://www.trackoff.org).

One of the highlights of the day was the 'Back to School' session where delegates were given the rare opportunity to observe a lesson in railway safety education. Using a short video, Chris Leech, Youth and Community Liaison Manager, Northern Rail and Steve Wareing, Area Safety Co-ordinator, BTP, taught a class of 29 year six students from Birchfield Community School, Birmingham the dangers of trespassing on the railway.

Moir Foster-Brown, Headteacher at Birchfield Community School, said: "We were grateful to be invited by Rail Safety and Standards Board to attend an event like this because it is vital that our pupils get to understand and learn about important issues such as railway crime and anti-social

behaviour. The safety of pupils is a paramount priority and I am glad that those who attended had the opportunity to participate and learn about the dangers of trespassing".



Early feedback from the event suggests that it was a great success, with delegates describing it as well presented, informative, thought provoking and a great opportunity to network with colleagues.

If you were unable to attend the event and would like to see what took place, please visit:

<http://www.trackoff.org/forum2007/index.html>



## ► 'Don't Run the Risk' at Level Crossings



Accidents which happen as a result of the misuse of level crossings and the catastrophic damage that can result was recently brought into sharp focus when the Top Gear team at the BBC, working with Network Rail, featured a simulated level crossing accident. The staged crash took place on an operational part of the railway in rural Lincolnshire and graphically showed the shocking results of a high speed diesel locomotive crashing into a family car on a level crossing.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

The crash was broadcast at a time when accidents caused by misuse of level crossings continue to hit the headlines. In one of the most recent incidents, John White aged 56, was killed after attempting to zig-zag his car through a half barrier crossing at Swainsthorpe in Norfolk. He was hit by an express train travelling at 100mph. His death was the second at this crossing in the last 18 months.

The rail industry is engaged in a range of initiatives to continuously improve public awareness of level crossing safety issues.

In its latest policy briefing paper on level crossings the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) states that there are approximately 9000 level crossings in Great Britain. Of this number, 7700 level crossings are on the national rail network of which more than 5000 allow vehicles access across the railway. These present the biggest risk of catastrophic accidents with the potential to kill rail passengers.

The ORR policy sets out what it expects of rail companies who manage level crossings and what it will do to reduce the risk at level crossings, and states that “except in exceptional circumstances, there should be no new level crossings on any railway.” For more information visit [www.rail-reg.gov.uk](http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk). However, the ORR recognises that rail companies cannot control the actions of motorists and pedestrians at level crossings, which adds further weight to the value of Network Rail’s ‘Don’t Run the Risk’ public information campaign. Network Rail launched the £3million campaign last May in an effort to raise public consciousness about the dangers of misusing level crossings. Building on the impact of the first wave of the campaign, including the Top Gear feature, the company is planning a re-launch next month, when the focus of the advertising will target the young and the elderly who have been identified as two vulnerable groups at particular risk of misusing rail crossings.

For more information contact P J Taylor, Network Rail Media Relations Manager 020 7557 8292 or [mediarelations@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:mediarelations@networkrail.co.uk)

For its part, Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) raises public awareness of the risks at level crossings by managing the National Level Crossing Safety Group. This group, made up of people from across the whole rail industry as well as representation from groups that use level crossings, attempts to improve the behaviour of pedestrians, motorists and other users. The group also examines public policy to make recommendations that will simplify the law on level crossings.

RSSB also manages a research programme looking into such factors as what makes people misbehave at crossings and how can the risks be reduced by technology such as obstacle detectors or CCTV. A level crossing risk model is continually being improved for use by Network Rail. For more information on the National Level Crossing Safety Group, contact Alan Davies: [Alan.davies@rssb.co.uk](mailto:Alan.davies@rssb.co.uk). For more details on RSSB research and development, please visit: [www.rssb.co.uk](http://www.rssb.co.uk)



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

## ► **Community Partnership Tackles Anti-Social Behaviour**

A multi-agency project aimed at tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour, trespassing on train tracks, hoax calls and vandalism is being pioneered on Merseyside. Called 'Your Choice', this one-day conference is a themed event exploring anti-social behaviour in the community through a fast-moving, interactive informative day aimed at 10-12 year-olds. The event consists of five workshops involving a rap group, drama, competitions and the opportunity for youngsters to interact with the fire, road and rail safety services. Since it was developed 2 years ago, 'Your Choice' has been delivered to around 50 schools and 4000 youngsters across Merseyside. Merseytravel, the public sector body which provides and integrates local passenger transport services in Merseyside, is the latest supporter of this initiative and, at a recent 'Your Choice' event, they helped launch a new website based around the project, [www.yourchoiceconference.org.uk](http://www.yourchoiceconference.org.uk).

Councillor Mark Dowd, Chair of Merseytravel, said, "The 'Your Choice' conference shows young people the consequences of bad behaviour and how it affects people's lives and the work of public and emergency services – and it does it in a new and interesting way. This event helps children realise that there are consequences to every action. Trespassing on train tracks, hoax phone calls, throwing stones at trains and vandalism can all cost lives".

## ► **Train Operator puts its Trust in Young People**

To help get the rail safety message across to young people, Arriva Trains Wales is donating £15,000 in sponsorship to the Princes Trust Cymru, which is running XL Clubs at 10 schools across Wales. The XL Clubs provide three hours a week of alternative curriculum support to young people facing difficulties in the mainstream education system. The train operator is sponsoring the clubs which are designed to motivate and engage young people through practical informal learning from which they can gain qualifications. Participating schools will work with a British Transport Police liaison officer to highlight the dangers of railways, and undertake a project to look at the negative impact and costs of graffiti. The youngsters will design an anti-graffiti poster for use by the train operator. Some pupils will take part in projects to improve their local station environment. Although it is early days, this partnership will run for the rest of the year, Arriva Trains Wales is confident that its financial support will be money well spent in helping disadvantaged young people improve their lives.

Teacher Gareth Walters from one of the schools involved, Porth Community Comprehensive, said, "The youngsters in the club are very excited about their involvement with the Arriva project. It has helped us focus on the problems of graffiti and discuss the effects this has on the wider community". For more information visit [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk).

## ► **No Messin' at the National Railway Museum**

Visitors to the 'Cab-it' weekend at the National Railway Museum on 17 and 18 March were given the rail safety message while enjoying a great day out. The museum opened a number of train



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

cabs to visitors and organised a range of visiting diesel locomotives both static and in service. As well as the safety display the Cab-it weekend included 2-foot gauge steam train rides, diesel rides on a standard gauge demonstration line, and talks and demonstrations by the museum's Explainer team.

Network Rail's No Messin' team were at the event, giving the safety message to under 18s. There was also information about Network Rail's Don't Run the Risk campaign which highlights the dangers of misusing level crossings and representatives from the British Transport Police were on hand to answer questions.



Dyan Crowther, Route Director for Network Rail said: "Rail safety is our top priority. Although deaths at level crossings in the UK are low by international standards, crossing misuse now represents the largest single risk of train accident on the railway. Similarly we know that railway lines are attractive to young people who feel they have nowhere else to go. The No Messin' campaign aims to introduce them to healthy and interesting activities which will keep them away from the tracks.

"Through events like these and the work of our team of Railway Crime Education Managers we hope to remind people that the railways are safe and a great way to travel - if they are used correctly".

Vicky Smith, Railway Crime Education Manager, Network Rail said "the weekend went really well and was very busy. I received lots of good feedback from everyone who visited our display and entered the competition".

For more information on the No Messin' campaign, please visit the website: [www.no-messin.com](http://www.no-messin.com)  
**A 'SPECIAL' OPPORTUNITY**

The British Transport Police is looking for people to join the Special Constabulary. Specials are unpaid but are rewarded by:

- performing a vital role for BTP
- performing the same duties and having the same powers as regular officers
- receiving comprehensive training in all aspects of BTP work

**Interested? Want to volunteer?**

For more information visit [www.btprecruitment.com](http://www.btprecruitment.com)

## ► Welcoming Wembley Staff Win Award

Helpful station staff at London Underground's Wembley Park station have been awarded the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association Open Doors Service Excellence Award thanks to a nomination from blind student Christina Finlayson.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup



She was so impressed with the helpful service she receives from station staff, when she regularly travels through the station with her guide dog to attend a computer studies course, that she felt they deserved recognition. She said, "I was so impressed by the Wembley Park staff, who have really gone out of their way to help me and the other visually impaired students on my course, that I really felt they should receive the award. When I first started using the station there was a lot of construction work being carried out, with platform changes and different parts of the station being partitioned off, which made it even more confusing for me. But the Wembley Park station staff, who were very busy dealing with other passengers, always made sure they were there to assist me on and off trains and through the station as well as having a friendly chat on the way. They really went the extra mile. This made a real difference to my journey knowing that the Tube staff would be there to help me and my guide dog, Irene". Michael Graves, Wembley Park Group Station Manager said, "This award is a great tribute to the staff who are an excellent team dealing with thousands of passengers at this busy interchange in a professional and welcoming manner".

## ► On Train CCTV Speeds Ahead

Recently, Nomad Digital, a Newcastle based global wireless communications provider, has trialled its leading edge solution for Actively Monitored 'On Train' CCTV solution providing Real-Time High Resolution, Low Latency Images from a fast-moving train.

To date, CCTV trials from moving trains, mostly on underground systems in the Far East, have only been possible from very slow moving trains or have demonstrated poor video quality.

Two trials were carried out by the company, one for Capitol Corridor in the San Francisco Bay area and the second in London on a Southern Metro train. In both cases live video was taken off the train at connect speeds in excess of 3Mbps and 25 frames/second. The system, say Nomad, could have operated at higher speeds were it not for the constraints on the video system itself, and the quality of the images was excellent, with even the headlines of passengers' newspapers easily seen.

On the Southern trial, live CCTV images were connected to in-carriage detectors (for noise, chemicals, radiation, etc) which could be linked directly into Southern's monitored CCTV control centre, giving operatives the ability to be alerted the moment something untoward took place. The system could also be connected to the emergency cord to provide an alert and video images the moment it is pulled.

Nomad maintains that CCTV only really comes into its own as a preventative measure when it is real-time, triggered by automated alerts and can stream high quality video feeds off a moving train. This trial demonstrated how CCTV can be used to tackle crime on trains and the underground.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

In California, Nomad also trialled a live video link of the station platform several kilometres ahead to the train driver, so that he could be warned of any obstructions or overcrowding, giving him time to slow down. The company says this application would work well in the UK, where there have been a number of fatalities on level crossings. Nomad is currently trialling a number of applications of the live video technology with a number of train operating companies. For more information contact [jay.saw@nomadrail.com](mailto:jay.saw@nomadrail.com)

## ► Pupils Tune In to Calming Music

Calming music played at Longbenton Metro station in Tyneside is being extended into the neighbouring St. Mary's RC Comprehensive School to help improve pupils' behaviour. In a national first, the school has been taking part in a trial which involves playing relaxing music before and after school and during breaks, when high spirits among pupils can turn into rowdy behaviour.

Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive which manages the Metro has put £3000 into the project. The Metro has been using classical music at its stations for many years to alleviate anti-social behaviour and was keen to take part in the trial as it wanted to respond to concerns voiced by passengers about poor behaviour from local schoolchildren.

Specially composed pieces of music have been created by a specialist company experienced in finding the right music for each different environment.

Nexus Security and Customer Services Manager, John Meagher, said, "Our passengers appreciate a calm, comfortable environment on stations and trains. We achieve this by working closely with the communities we serve, including schools.

We supported this project from the outset because it offered a benefit to everyone, from St. Mary's through to local shops and businesses and on into Metro. We are delighted it is going so well".

In the first phase of the project, music was played before and after school but, because it was so successful, the music was extended into the dining hall during lunch breaks, where the positive effect on behaviour has been significant. Pupils are now getting ownership of the music selection by being allowed to incorporate their own contributions.

Mike Potts, Citizenship and Advanced Skills teacher of St. Mary's said, "All the staff have been astounded by the swifter delivery of lunch and it's great to be involved in a project where the School Council and other pupils have been so engaged. The trial is due to finish soon but we will be carrying on playing our music as it has proved so enjoyable".

## ► Capital Safety and Security Improvements for Suburban Stations

More than £32 million has been invested by Transport for London in making safety and security improvements at more than 189 stations (62 per cent) of London's suburban rail stations. To



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

mark this achievement the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, recently visited Southern Trains Streatham Hill Control Centre which itself has benefited from an investment of £3.8 million. The Control Centre monitors Southern stations in the London area.

Working with TfL, eight train operating companies have now benefited from funding to improve safety and security at suburban stations. This investment has provided more Help Points, CCTV, better lighting and customer information systems, and more staff to provide assistance and reassurance to passengers.

For more information: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk>

## ▶ A day in the life of....

Anne-Marie Batson, Rail Crime Education Manager, Network Rail

Email: [anne-marie.batson@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:anne-marie.batson@networkrail.co.uk)



### What do I do?

My role is to educate children and young people about the dangers of playing and hanging around on the railway. I cover Kent, South East London, East London and East Sussex. There are nine Rail Crime Education Managers across the UK. My role is to promote railway safety in schools, pupil referral units, special needs, young offenders and youth centres, looking at rail crime – trespass, vandalism (including graffiti), stone throwing and its consequences - serious injury, death, fines and/or prison sentences in a young offenders centre.

### What does the job involve?

A great deal of travelling! I work in areas primarily where there is a high level of railway crime known as ‘hot spots’. I deliver talks using video and/or a PowerPoint presentation. This can be a ‘one off’ or run over a number of weeks. I also deliver group sessions within a youth centre or one to one intervention as part of restorative justice. Each Rail Crime Education Manager is allocated a budget to fund diversionary activities for young people such as Football in the Community and safety initiatives with local authorities. I have ‘Junior Citizens’ events in my patch where agencies for example, Road Safety, Fire Service and St John’s Ambulance and so on come together to deliver their safety messages to Year Six pupils in the local area for a week or more! At the moment, I am working in partnership with the British Transport Police and a Community Safety Group to compile a strategy to raise awareness about the Channel Tunnel Rail Link extension in Kent as trains travelling up to 200mph from London to Paris will pass through Swanscombe, Greenhithe and Northfleet at the end of the year.

Each year, Network Rail goes on tour to each rail crime manager’s area in the summer holidays. We host ‘No Messin’ Live which is a FREE two day event for young people with local sports providers and other activities such as arts and crafts. It is an opportunity to provide pathways into other endeavours rather than mess about near railway tracks.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

## Who do you work with?

My target age range is 9 to 16 year olds. I want to be able to influence them before they are tempted to embark on a 'career' in railway crime. I work closely with my colleagues in Network Rail who provide intelligence on rail crime incidents in my areas. I work in partnership with a number of agencies for example, the local train operator Southeastern Railway, British Transport Police, local councils, crime and disorder groups, local constabulary, fire service, connexions youth service, youth offending and youth inclusion support panel.

## Why do I do my job?

To save a life. If I can get the rail safety message across to one child or a young person, then I am happy.

I am passionate that young people know the dangers and consequences of playing and hanging about near tracks or committing a rail crime. It is too easy to forget the rules of the railway such as remembering to stand behind the yellow line on a station platform when a fast train passes through. I often say to young people that 'you wouldn't run across a busy motorway' and yet, children and young people play chicken with trains. I know who will come off worse and I want to prevent that outcome as much as possible.

## ► Dates for Your Diary – This Month:

17 April

**Westminster Briefing – Building Safer Communities Through Partnership: Designing Out Crime**

**One Whitehall Place, Westminster**

For more details: [www.westminster-briefing.com](http://www.westminster-briefing.com)

## ► Future Events

9-10 May

**5th National Crime Mapping Conference  
Tower Guoman Hotel, London**

For more details: <http://www.uk-cmc.org/>

19-27 May

**ACORP Community Rail Week**

For more details: <http://www.acorp.uk.com/>

7 June

**ACORP Conference: “where next for community rail?”**

For more details: <http://www.acorp.uk.com/>

19-21 June

**National Community Safety Network’s 2nd National Convention for Safer Communities**

The 2007 Convention is aimed at all those who work within the field of Safer Communities. The programme will be developed and delivered by a multi-agency group, looking at the latest policies and thinking on a range of cross cutting issues.

For more details: <http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm>