

December update

Community Safety E-Newsletter



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the December 2008 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.

This month's issue includes the coverage of Network Rail's refreshed national safety campaign, 'Don't run the risk', which highlights the danger of level crossing misuse. Arriva's 'netball girls' demonstrate safe travel and, a new health and safety campaign is launched by Metro.

As this is the December issue, may I also take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and all importantly, safe, Christmas holiday period.

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 or **020 7904 7674**

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Marina Kilcoyne, Editor.



Network Rail recently launched a refresh of its major national public safety campaign which highlights the danger of level crossing misuse.

The refreshed campaign included placing a hard-hitting advert on television, showing at primetime slots, to challenge people's assumptions about the level of danger they are in and to change their behaviour in order to address this risk.

The new advert fittingly launched during the final Formula One Grand Prix and was aired throughout November, and will be again in February. The TV ad is also supported by a national radio campaign.

The advert is a dramatic depiction of what can happen when people take a risk at a crossing – and aims to target the particular types of crossing and profiles of crossing users most at risk.

The work on this campaign is running in parallel with other Network Rail and industry initiatives to minimise the safety risk at level crossings. These include:

- Network Rail's dedicated community safety team of 10 who work to reduce railway crime and provide young people with positive activities to fill their time
- Development of solutions which could lead to the replacement of some crossings
- Development of obstacle detection systems
- Developing better and cost-effective ways of detecting and recording level crossings misuse
- Through the community safety team, working with the Police and Crown Prosecution Service to improve the prosecution of offenders.

There are over 7,600 level crossings both on public and private land that cut across the UK railway network.

The type of crossing provided depends on a number of factors - whether the right of way is private or public, volume and nature of traffic and the geographical features of the location. All have one common feature...they are safe if used correctly.

Every year, over 2,000 pedestrians and motorists are reported to have misused a crossing. Some people are injured or killed primarily because they have made an error, deliberately made a violation or have become complacent about using the crossing.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/>



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Makeover for Bradford Interchange

Northern Rail has invested £80,000 in brightening up and modernising Bradford Interchange as part of its continuing investment in improving stations for a better customer experience.

The refurbishment work, which took three weeks with most of the work carried out overnight to avoid any disturbance to customers, includes new seating, new and improved signage and new flooring in the waiting room.

The rejuvenated station, having a clean and tidy appearance as well as a modern purpose, will no doubt encourage positive perceptions of personal security and safety amongst passengers, and the new look will facilitate a better customer experience of rail overall.

The old ticket booths have been removed to open up the entrance to the platforms and the station has also undergone a major deep clean and been repainted.

Steve Butcher, Area Director, Northern Rail, says: "We have invested £80,000 to make a lot of small changes that we hope will make a big difference to customers using Bradford Interchange station."

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



Tyne and Wear Metro launches new health and safety campaign

Metro, and its owner Nexus, want to cut down the number of slips, trips, falls and incidents of passengers getting their fingers caught in the doors of a train as they are closing.

Graphic posters will be displayed at Tyne and Wear Metro stations to highlight the injuries passengers can sustain if they slip or fall over running for a train or while they are on an escalator.

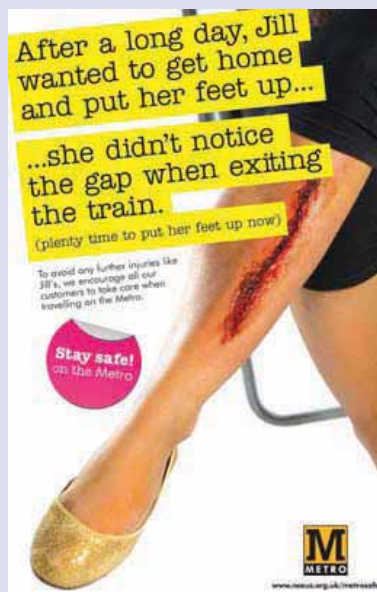
The Stay Safe on the Metro campaign, which launched on 13 November, will see the new posters displayed prominently throughout the system. Common sense safety tips on how to avoid minor accidents will also be available to passengers on a free leaflet and online at: www.nexus.org.uk/metrosafe.

The images on the posters might well be hard hitting but this has been done deliberately to focus attention on the issue of travelling safely on Metro, particularly when the system gets busy in the morning and evening rush hours.

Metro Director, Mick Carbro, said: "Passenger safety is our top priority. We are confident this campaign will get across some very basic but very important safety messages to our customers: take care when you're travelling on Metro and help us to reduce the number of minor accidents on the network".

Metro's passenger safety guidance includes the following safety messages:

- Take care during wet conditions, if you cannot avoid walking in an area of a station where a yellow warning sign is displayed, please remember to take extra care. A recent Metro passenger survey found less than half of respondents would walk slower through a danger area identified with a yellow cone (48%).
- If carrying heavy/bulky items of shopping, please use the station lift instead of the escalator.
- Avoid running to catch the train. Always try to allow plenty of time for your journey. Think of the safety of others as well as your own.
- Keep floor surfaces tidy. Please place litter in the bins provided.
- When using escalators remember to:
 - Stand to the right, facing forward - don't lean on the side or sit down.
 - Hold the handrail.
 - Take care when stepping on and off.
 - Be especially careful if you have loose shoelaces, or are wearing scarves/baggy clothes - they can get caught in moving parts



For more information, please visit: <http://www.nexus.org.uk/wps/wcm/connect/Nexus/Metro>

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Automatic ticket gates at Leeds rail station

The installation of 25 automatic ticket gates at Leeds station is now complete.

With the newer smart cards, similar to those used on London Underground, the gates are expected to make it easier for passengers to travel through the station and help reduce the number of people travelling without a ticket.

Passengers with credit card-sized tickets - over 75% of the people who pass through Leeds every day - simply need to insert the ticket into the gate, take the ticket back and the gate will open for them.



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

National Express community safety initiatives win recognition

Community safety initiatives have played a big part in train operating companies' ongoing development and these have been recognised by National Express stations' receiving awards under the secure station scheme and, achieving two 'Highly Commended' certificates at the 2008 National Cycle-Rail awards held in November.

• Secure Stations



Diss, Harwich International, Ipswich and Stowmarket stations have all been reaccredited under the Secure Stations Scheme - a national awards scheme which recognises good practices where train operators have worked in partnership with the British Transport Police (BTP) and other partners in implementing security measures at stations, taking into account areas such as station design, management practices, security and passenger safety.

The stations have been reaccredited for two further years from 1 October and new Secure Stations Award certificates have been presented to station staff by Jackie Gibbs, Head of Retail and Customer Services (Mainline) for National Express East Anglia, and Keith Jackson, Area Crime Reduction Officer for BTP.

• National Cycle-Rail Awards



The ATOC National Cycle-Rail Awards 2008 were held at the Novotel London Euston on the 7 November. The Awards recognise the progress made by the rail industry and associated organisations towards encouraging integrated cycle-rail travel.

The Awards communicate the good practice used by the railways to the industry and enables ATOC to move closer to their goals of spending more time, effort, thought and resources on improving the experience of cyclists using the railway.

National Express East Anglia was commended for its work on three new projects designed to make a positive difference to cyclists including increased security measures:

1. A trial with the BTP to develop a new security scheme for passengers parking cycles at Chelmsford proved very successful and was extended to Billericay, Rayleigh, Wickford, Ipswich, Cambridge, Harlow and Ware. The initiative involved transponders being given to cyclists thereby discouraging theft and improving the chances of recovery if a bike were to be taken.
2. The second development was the introduction of additional cycle parking in a joint initiative with Hertfordshire County Council for the stations at Bishops Stortford, Cheshunt, Rye House, Sawbridgeworth, St. Margarets and Waltham Cross.
3. The train operator's third action was their proactive support for the successful bids from Colchester and Southend to be chosen as Cycling Demonstration Towns. In doing so the train operator committed to work with the local councils to encourage cycling to and from the rail stations, as part of the relevant action plans.

National Express East Anglia has also continued to increase CCTV coverage for cycle storage areas at stations and provide better signage highlighting cycle storage locations on trains. In addition support was maintained for the London – Southend bike ride, providing special train services for participants and their bicycles.

Andrew Chivers, Managing Director, National Express East Anglia said, 'I am delighted that National Express East Anglia has received this recognition at the National Cycle-Rail Awards. We have consistently championed the needs of cyclists, taking steps to make travel by train easier for cyclists in East Anglia'.

For more information, please visit: www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com/

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Scottish stations adopted

First Scot Rail's 'Adopt a Station scheme' has gone from strength to strength, thanks to joint initiatives with groups and individuals to put stations at the heart of their communities.

More than sixty of stations have now been adopted by volunteer community groups and individuals who have worked wonders with baskets and planters to create welcoming bursts of colour.

Recent stations include - Annan, Ardlui, Ardrossan South Beach, Cardross, Dalmally, Giffnock, Johnstone, Upper Tyndrum and Whitecraigs. At Uddingston Pride, adopter took advantage of a basket tree to give a cleaner look to the station. The photograph was kindly sent to First Scotrail by David Lorimer of Uddingston Pride.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.firstgroup.com/scotrail>



European Road-Rail awareness day planned

Level crossings remain the area of highest potential catastrophic risk on the railway. It has long been shown that the vast majority of accidents are caused by the behaviour of pedestrians and motorists. Several years ago the European Commission set up a high level group to look into safety at crossings, involving both rail and road authorities. That group led RSSB and others to form the European Level Crossing Research Forum in 2005, to act as an informal group to share the outcomes of research and other knowledge and experience in level crossings.



Carl Dixon Pederson, of the Danish Roads Directorate, shows plans at a footpath crossing

The group has now agreed to consider issues beyond simply research, involving road, rail, regulatory and enforcement issues. It will therefore drop 'Research' from its title, becoming the European Level Crossing Forum (ELCF). This will encourage participation by a broader range of authorities, including traffic enforcement agencies.

At a recent meeting in Køge, Denmark, ELCF heard about a successful national awareness day, held in France, on 4 June this year. This was a public campaign to highlight the hazards of misbehaviour at level crossings, following two serious accidents in France, which had received high profile media coverage. The group then agreed to plan a European Road-Rail Awareness Campaign in June 2009. This will support and complement national campaigns such as Network Rail's 'Don't run the risk'.

The RSSB-managed Road-Rail Interface Safety Group (R-RISG) which includes Network Rail will gather support from road, rail, regulatory, enforcement, safety, political authorities and organisations.

There will be more on this campaign in future editions of UPDATE. For more information please contact Alan Davies, programme manager, community safety, RSSB: alan.davies@rssb.co.uk.

New Lifts at Haslemere Station provide access for all

New passenger lifts at Haslemere station are now making access much easier for everyone, particularly for people with reduced mobility. The access improvement project, managed by Network Rail and funded under the Department for Transport's Access for All scheme, involved the construction of a new footbridge, complete with two new lifts and stairs, providing a step-free route from the platforms to the ticket hall and station entrance. Each lift accommodates up to 16 people, is fully Disability Discrimination Act - compliant and fitted with CCTV and telephone links.

For more information, please visit: www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/

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Supermarket receipt helps lead to conviction of rail vandals who endangered safety

Two teenagers who placed a 60kg concrete slab and a metal plank on a railway line were tracked down after British Transport Police detectives found an ASDA supermarket receipt for confectionary at the crime scene.



The youths were each sentenced to one year in a young offenders' institute on 18 November at Peterborough Crown Court for their reckless act, which endangered the safety of 150 passengers onboard a Central Trains service on 22 October, 2007, close to the River Nene Bridge in Stanground, near Peterborough.

The debris was struck by the 5:17pm Stansted to Birmingham New Street Central Trains service at approximately 5:55pm and caused considerable damage to the train.

A lengthy investigation by Peterborough-based BTP officers, which involved forensics work and witness appeals to the public, led to the identification of the two youths who were traced after DNA and an ASDA receipt were found at the scene.

Officers studied the store's CCTV footage from the time of the purchase and managed to identify a number of teenage boys who had gone into ASDA in Peterborough to buy sweets. Another key piece of evidence was a "trophy" photo of the 60kg concrete slab and 10ft-long metal plank on the line, taken on Lynch's phone.

Officers also retrieved moving footage from the phone showing evidence that other items, such as bottles, had been placed on the line, and showed the items shattering as trains passed over them.

The court heard how on the day of the incident, the driver of the train involved, which was travelling at around 60mph, spotted the obstruction and slammed on his emergency brakes.

In a statement to the court, the train's conductor, who was thrown off balance by the impact, said he feared the train would derail and fall into the river.

Detective Constable Paul Menarry, investigating officer from BTP, said: "Finding the supermarket receipt at the scene was a key part of our investigation, as was the fact that we could review CCTV from the store itself.



"It was this that led us to identifying a group of lads who hung around the railway line in the area and then to those who had ventured on to the tracks to place the obstructions."

DC Menarry said that evidence taken from the mobile phone showed that the youths experimented by placing various different items on the track and watching the level of impact it would create when hit by trains.

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

Netball girls on track for international honours



Rail has benefited from a positive third party endorsement of rail as a safe form of transport for young people as a result of 'Arriva's netball girls demonstrating safe travel'.

Six young netball players selected for the Wales under 17 Netball squad have landed a sponsorship deal with national train operator Arriva Trains Wales. The deal has led to positive local media coverage, subtly advertising rail as a safe and secure form of transport for young people.

The girls, who play at Mold Sports Centre, will be supported with their travel arrangements when travelling by train for Cardiff for training sessions with the national squad.

Speaking at Wrexham railway station, Natalie Griffiths said: "It is a great honour to be selected for the national squad. It is a big financial commitment for our families to support us therefore the assistance we will receive with our travel arrangements is going to be of great help financially."

Squad members Bethan and Lowri Barker commented; "We train three times a week after a school therefore going to Cardiff by train is going to be more relaxing for us. It will also allow us to travel together as a team. We would previously have had to take a few cars therefore we're pleased that this sponsorship is going to benefit the environment."

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "We are delighted to be helping them with their travel arrangements and wish them every success while representing Wales in the future."

For more information, please visit: <http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/home.aspx>

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News in Brief

South West trains - has launched a passenger pilot of the UK's first national rail smartcard. A number of season ticket holders are taking part in the pilot scheme between Staines and Windsor to help test and perfect the ITSO smartcard technology before it is rolled out across the network. The smartcard could help support revenue protection and reduce risks and impact of theft.

BTP – a man has been jailed for twelve weeks after assaulting a member of rail staff in a racial attack at Westbury railway station, Wiltshire. PC Andrew Boston, of the British Transport Police (BTP), said: "BTP takes assaults on rail staff extremely seriously; everyone has the right to be able to go to work with out fear or being attacked or abused in this way. Assaults on staff, physical or verbal, will not be tolerated."

Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme	<i>March 2009</i>	Venue: Central London, tbc For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
The Railway Community Safety Forum 2009 organised by RSSB	<i>Wednesday 18 March 2009</i>	Venue: National Motor Cycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands For further information: E-mail: community.safety@rssb.co.uk
ACORP Community Rail Awards – Carlisle	<i>Friday 25 September 2009</i>	Venue: Venue: Carlisle For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/

Date For Your Diary

Railway Community Safety Forum 2009

Wednesday 18 March 2009

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham

For more information, please email: community.safety@rssb.co.uk

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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