

Welcome to the June 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.

I am delighted to be able to introduce myself as Community Safety Programme Manager and editor of UPDATE covering for Kerry Dolan's maternity leave. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and wish Kerry and her husband Paul the very best wishes on the birth of Jack.

This month's issue includes an article on CCTV seeing First Capital Connect joining forces with Enfield council and the British Transport Police (BTP) to work on an innovative project. We also highlight some initiatives that the train operating companies and the BTP are undertaking to tackle community safety issues such as cable theft. Network Rail has also announced a series of free activity-filled summer events designed to engage young people in new and exciting activities and steer them away from the dangers on the railway.

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.

National Express East Anglia Launches 'Safer Travel' Scheme

National Express East Anglia has introduced a 'Safer Travel' scheme for customers travelling between Colchester, Clacton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze. The train operator has employed new 'Safer Travel' officers who will patrol trains between these destinations.



The new team will focus on the enforcement of Railway Byelaws with a view to curbing anti-social behaviour, fare evasion and vandalism, thereby making travelling on the route more pleasant for everyone. The new officers will wear head cams which they can operate when they need to collect evidence, providing footage rather like CCTV coverage. This can then be passed to the National Express East Anglia's prosecution department. The aim of the scheme is to make customers feel more confident and comfortable about travelling on these services, whatever time they travel.

Andrew Goodrum, National Express East Anglia's Mainline Business Director commented, "National Express East Anglia's new 'Safer Travel' team will be a reassuring presence for our customers who travel between Colchester, Clacton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze. The 'Safer Travel' scheme demonstrates we have listened to customers' concerns and we're working in partnership to deliver improvements to our train services for the communities we serve."

The new 'Safer Travel' team will work in partnership with National Express East Anglia's existing Revenue Protection Inspectors and also a new British Transport Police Officer – employed solely for this purpose. Working together this partnership will be able to focus even more closely on safer travel priorities.

British Transport Police London North Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Mark Newton, said:

"We want to help to ensure that passengers travelling on the railway are able to do so in a safe and pleasant way. The Making Travel Safer team has been conceived with precisely this aim in mind."

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

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All eyes on the First Capital Connect line



First Capital Connect has recently worked in partnership with BTP and Enfield Council to play a key role in the fight against crime in Enfield, following the unveiling of a new state of the art CCTV monitoring centre in Edmonton.

BTP will have a full-time presence at the centre in the form of PC Kevin Fraser, formally an Area Intelligence Bureau briefing officer. PC Fraser will provide support and advice to the centre's staff, as well as being a vital point of contact between BTP and local police.

The centre, which monitors 1,000 cameras at 61 First Capital Connect stations, was opened at a gala ceremony in May, attended by dignitaries from Enfield Council, First Capital Connect Managing Director Elaine Holt and BTP London North Area Commander Chief Superintendent Mark Newton.

Tony Holland, Crime Prevention Manager for First Capital Connect, gave a tour of the CCTV centre and spoke of how operators will monitor stations, platforms and car parks on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week. Operators magnified areas of the car park demonstrating the high quality technical equipment.



BTP's Mark Newton said: "This is a great example of partnership working between First Capital Connect, Enfield Council, and BTP. Such a unique scheme, which will help coordinate crime prevention and incident management, may well become a blueprint for similar initiatives across the country in the future."

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

London Overground exceeds 'Secured Stations' target

With the help of the London Overground liaison officer, Inspector Julian Dixon, a target of four "Secure Stations" by June 2008 has already been exceeded with the current total now standing at six accredited stations.

The Secure Stations Scheme is a Department for Transport and BTP led initiative designed to improve passenger perception and safety at railway and underground stations nationally.

Recognising the public's fear of crime at stations, the scheme provides an incentive to station operators to improve security and provide reassurance to passengers and staff, and the new Transport for London train service, London Overground, has already signed up to the scheme.

The national scheme was launched in 1998 and covers all rail and underground networks policed by BTP. It establishes standards of good practice and accredits individual stations which have worked with BTP and other local partners to implement security measures.

BTP assists train operators by identifying areas of improvement to make the railway a safer, more pleasing place to be.

Inspector Dixon said: "Part of my duties as liaison inspector involves regular travel across the network and making observations with regards to passenger safety and the general perception of crime. This information is then fed back to London Overground who act proactively and make the suggested improvements more or less straightaway."

Passenger surveys conducted by London Overground show that passengers are more confident travelling on the line as a result of the scheme. More than 90% of passengers questioned at stations have said that they feel 'safe' or 'very safe' when using the network.

In addition, a community engagement plan has been developed involving local primary schools, whereby they design their own notice board which is then displayed at their nearest railway station.



The initiative involves sponsorship of children's competitions by London Overground, attendance at meetings and a proactive involvement between the two organisations.

"It is clear that London Overground is committed to ensuring the safety and security of passengers as well as engaging directly with their local community," added Inspector Dixon.

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

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Nexus to install cameras at Metro level crossing



Nexus is to install enforcement cameras at its Callerton Parkway level crossing in Newcastle to help the police get tough with careless motorists who risk their lives by driving through red 'stop' lights when Tyne and Wear Metro trains are approaching.

Nexus, who own and operate Metro, is fitting the cameras due to the number of near misses at Callerton Parkway over the last year. Almost half of the 52 road traffic incidents at Metro's five level crossings have occurred there.

The cameras will be mounted on either side of the level crossing and will take a picture of a vehicle's number plate when it passes through when the warning lights are flashing and the alarm is sounding.

The images obtained from the cameras will be used by the police to prosecute drivers who run the red lights.

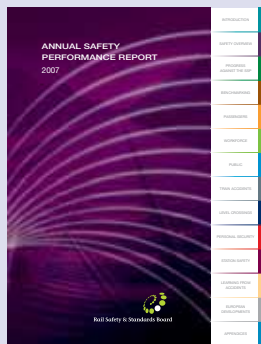
Nexus is committed to reducing the amount of incidents at level crossings in line with the ongoing 'Don't Run The Risk' campaign run by Network Rail.

A detailed review concluded that enforcement cameras offer an efficient and effective deterrent to vehicles crossing signals at danger. Northumbria Police and the Northumbria Safer Road Initiative both support the case for the cameras at this particular crossing.

The 'red light' cameras, scheduled to be installed shortly, are approved by the Home Office for use on highways and level crossings.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.nexus.org.uk/>

RSSB's Annual Safety Performance report



The Annual Safety Performance Report (ASPR) published by RSSB, reviews the rail industry's safety performance over the calendar year and assesses progress in the key risk areas identified in the Strategic Safety Plan. It benchmarks rail safety in Britain against other transport modes and overseas railways, reviews the way that our industry learns from accidents, and discusses the European developments that are having an effect on the way safety is managed.

The report is not just an important statistical indicator; it's also a set of important signposts for cross-industry activity, which includes the work of the RSSB-facilitated Community Safety Steering Group, and incorporates various initiatives, research and development. The results help the industry address key issues including fare evasion, trespass, vandalism, level crossing misuse, suicides and staff assaults.

The 2007 report is the third that RSSB has produced in-house, and the first to be based on the revised weightings for shock, trauma and minor injuries in the calculation of fatalities and weighted injuries (FWI), which were introduced in April 2008, as a result of RSSB research on behalf of the industry.

The ASPR can be downloaded free from the RSSB website in a range of forms, including a handy "Key Facts and Figures" booklet. Go to: <http://www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp>, and for further information, contact Marcus Dacre, Senior Safety Intelligence Analyst, 020 7983 6752, marcus.dacre@rssb.co.uk



New Community Safety Co-Coordinator for Scotland

The BTP has appointed its first Community Safety Co-ordinator for the Scottish region. Adam Kerr will expand the area's partnership working throughout Scotland and will work closely with a number of agencies within the industry and local community groups. He will ensure BTP is properly represented in formal "Information Sharing Protocols" with Community Planning Partnerships which will enhance the area's community safety and anti-social behaviour strategies.

Adam said: "I look forward to addressing this area of partnership, working within the police service and hope to provide a link to improve the flow of intelligence through established protocols between our partners."

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

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Gwyneth Dunwoody MP

It was with sadness that RSSB heard of the death of Gwyneth Dunwoody MP in April. Gwyneth was the keynote speaker at the RSSB Rail Community Safety Forum held in March.

Gwyneth was chair of the Transport Select Committee and fiery supporter of the railways, as well as being the longest-serving Member of Parliament.

RSSB chief executive Len Porter, who also chaired the March Forum said, "She was a formidable lady who was passionate about the railways and about getting a just result. We shall all miss her a great deal."

NO MESSIN'!

Free summer events to keep kids off the tracks

A series of free activity-filled summer events designed to engage young people in new and exciting activities and steer them away from the dangers of the railway, have been announced by Network Rail's "No Messin'!" Campaign.

In keeping with recent years, thousands of young people across the country will be able to participate in a wealth of sports, dance and music activities including rock climbing, DJ-ing, professional football coaching, kick boxing, motor biking, a surfing simulator and wrestling. This year's programme takes place in Leeds, Alloa, Southampton, Coventry, Manchester and Weston-super-mare. Last year more than 14,000 young people took part in activities across the country.

Dozens of people are killed or seriously injured on the railway every year as a result of trespassing. The locations for the 'No Messin' Live! events' have been chosen specifically as they are hotspots for railway crime.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/>

Alcohol ban unveiled on London's transport network



Newly elected London Mayor Boris Johnson has unveiled plans to ban alcohol on the capital's transport network. The prohibition of alcohol on the Tube, trains and buses was one of Boris's election pledges and is part of a wider strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour. Mr Johnson is working with London's transport commissioner Peter Hendy to implement the ban from 1 June. New posters advising passengers of the no-alcohol policy are also being launched.

Overseas News – Canadian Pacific Police spread the rail safety message across the country

The Canadian Pacific (CP) Police Service took its public safety message directly to schools and community groups during Rail Safety Week in Canada, 28 April – 4 May to remind students, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists of the important message of staying safe around railway property, in particular at crossings.

As part of Rail Safety Week, CP Police conducted safety awareness blitzes at a number of crossings, surveyed rail property for trespassers and targeted a variety of educational institutions with rail safety presentations.

"Rail Safety Week is important as it serves as a focused reminder that we all play a role in staying safe around the railway," said Chief McClelland.

"CP Police from Montreal to Vancouver participated in more than 100 events targeting everyone from pre-schoolers to those learning to drive semi-trucks."

CP events coincided with those being put on by other Canadian railways, associations and organisations dedicated to further reducing the amount of fatalities and serious injuries tied to rail-related incidents each year.

"Our officers devote a significant amount of time year round to educating communities so they can co-exist safely with the railway," added Chief McClelland.

In addition to risk of death or serious injury, people who trespass on railway property or fail to yield the right-of-way to an approaching train at a crossing are subject to being charged federally under the Rail Safety Act.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.newswire.ca/>

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European Action against Metal thieves

BTP joined forces with other designated-rail police across Europe, in April 2008, participating in a day of action targeting metal thieves.

Eleven European police forces took part in the Day of Action, which was co-ordinated through Railpol, the European railway policing organisation. The countries who took part were Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

Metal theft is an emerging problem internationally driven by the rising price of metal on world markets. Metal thefts are up nationally by at least 150%.

Police are tackling the problem on four key fronts, through:

- The development of a better intelligence picture
- Ensuring existing legislation is effectively enforced - taking a multi-agency approach
- Prevention and reduction opportunities
- Education

“We are using every method at our disposal to tackle this type of crime and in particular we arrest and prosecute those involved,” commented Detective Superintendent Ashley Croft from BTP.



“Our message is clear: those involved in metal theft will be caught and brought to justice.”

“Cable theft on the rail system involves not only great financial loss, but causes hours of delays to millions of passengers. It is also hazardous for those involved who put themselves at risk by trespassing on lines and for others, including children, who may use trespass routes opened up by thieves. This is certainly not a victimless crime.”

Robin Gisby, Director of Operations and Customer Services at Network Rail said “We are working closely with BTP to prevent thefts and catch culprits and I urge anyone who sees people acting suspiciously around the railway to report it immediately to the police. Our failsafe system means any cut cable turns all signals in the area to red bringing all nearby trains to a halt. Passengers are therefore not at risk but they are massively inconvenienced by the delays that are caused. The only people at risk are the thieves themselves who put their own lives on the line with trespassing on the railway.”

“Communities can help,” said Detective Superintendent Croft. “We need information on who is committing these crimes or dealing in stolen metal.”

BTP established Operation Drum approximately two years ago and created a dedicated national squad to combat rail metal theft in September 2007. They and regional officers conduct intelligence-led operations designed to frustrate and disrupt criminal activity related to rail metal theft, and in some places to target known thieves.

Nationally, from 1 January until 16 April this year, BTP recorded 637 metal theft offences and arrested 153 people. In 2007 BTP recorded 1,928 metal theft offences and arrested 396 people.

BTP has also taken the lead in tackling metal theft and chairs the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Conductive Metal Thefts Working Group.

BTP undertook a wide range of operations across Britain with a large amount of activity focused in the North East, North West, East Midlands, Manchester, the South and Wales. This included raids, visits to railways depots, checks at scrap metal yards, helicopter patrols and covert and overt operations. Scrap yards which have previously failed to comply with the Scrap Metal Dealers’ Act were also a particular target.



A number of arrests were made for ‘theft of cable’, ‘handling stolen goods’ and ‘trespassing on the railway’

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Joint working sees prosecution of prolific car offender - A successful joint operation between BTP officers in London North and Bedfordshire Police has resulted in the prosecution of a prolific car thief. Through liaison with Bedfordshire Police, two London North officers identified the 'car thief' as a possible suspect for a number of car crimes at Bedford railway station. The car thief was interviewed and questioned about 29 offences. He admitted all 29 offences at Bedford station and approximately 50 others at various car parks throughout Bedfordshire.

New rail link for Ebbw Vale - The new service linking Ebbw Vale with Cardiff Central station marks the completion of an ambitious £30m project funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The project has included construction of six new stations along the route – at Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca & Pontymister and Rogerstone. The new stations include a range of facilities including car parks and CCTV systems for improved passenger safety.

Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
2008 NCSN Annual Conference: Share good practice to make a difference	Wednesday 4 – Thursday 5 June 2008	Venue: Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool For further information: Web: www.community-safety.net/conference2008 Tel: 01904 757 036 E-mail: ncsnconference2008@tailormadeconferences.co.uk
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Diversity and anti-social behaviour	Thursday 5 June 2008	Venue: Birmingham University For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
10th International Level Crossing Symposium	Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 June 2008	Venue: Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, Paris For further information: http://www.levelcrossing2008.com

Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Railway Innovation Awards	Tuesday 1 July 2008	Venue: London For further information: http://www.railwayforum.com/awards/index.php
ACORP Conference	Thursday 10 July 2008	Venue: London For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
'No Messin' Live! Keeping kids off the tracks	Wednesday 23 July – Thursday 24 July 2008 Thursday 31 July – Friday 1 August 2008	Venue: Alloa, Scotland Venue: Leeds For further information: http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
'No Messin' Live! Keeping kids off the tracks (continued)	<i>Friday 1 August – Saturday 2 August 2008</i>	Venue: Southampton
	<i>Wednesday 6 August – Thursday 7 August 2008</i>	Venue: Coventry
	<i>Wednesday 13 August – Thursday 14 August 2008</i>	Venue: Moston, Manchester
	<i>Friday 29 August – Saturday 30 August 2008</i>	Venue: Weston-super-mare For further information: http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Comparative experience of governing anti-social behaviour and disorder	<i>Thursday 18 September 2008</i>	Venue: University of Leeds For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
ACORP Community Rail - The South West Experience - organised by the Devon and Cornwall Partnership	<i>Friday 19 September 2008</i>	Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
ACORP Community Rail Awards – Plymouth	<i>Friday 19 September 2008</i>	Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
ACORP Community Rail Festival – Plymouth	<i>Saturday 20 September 2008</i>	Venue: Plymouth For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: The final conference, situating anti-social behaviour and respect	<i>March 2009</i>	Venue: Central London, tbc For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
The Railway Community Safety Forum 2009	<i>Wednesday 18 March 2009 (provisional)</i>	Venue: tbc For further information: E-mail: community.safety@rssb.co.uk

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