

# March

# update



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the March 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 excited to announce that the main event this month is the Railway Community Safety Forum that will take place at Aston Villa Football Club on 14 March. More information on this key community safety event can be found in the 'dates for your diary' section of the newsletter. There are still a few places remaining so if you would like to attend please register NOW!

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

Kerry Taylor, Editor.

## ► Getting to Grips with Graffiti

Removing graffiti on the rail network costs the industry millions of pounds every year and this doesn't include the costs of lost revenue and delays. Tackling the scourge of graffiti covers a range of initiatives.

Graffiti-resistant film is the latest line of defence being used by Metronet Rail, the company responsible for maintenance and renewal of two thirds of the Tube.

External protective film is being applied to protect exterior paintwork from 'non-scratch' graffiti. It is colour matched to the paintwork, almost invisible to the naked eye and can be quickly and easily replaced. To protect the inside surfaces of windows from scratched graffiti, sacrificial films are being applied which make any scratch damage seem as though it has disappeared.

Metronet has a commitment to remove all incidences of graffiti from the outside of trains within 48 hours and from the inside within 24 hours.

Project Manager Stuart Ingram said, "The application of the protective film to all of Metronet's fleets is our newest weapon in the fight against graffiti on the Tube and will noticeably improve the travelling environment for passengers".

For further information contact Roger Perkins on 0207 0285084 or [ger.perkins@metronetrail.com](mailto:ger.perkins@metronetrail.com)



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

The British Transport Police London Underground Graffiti Unit is a dedicated, three-officer team, which targets offenders using good intelligence. The Unit registers all incidences of graffiti on their computer database and targets hot-spot locations and perpetrators. The Unit has the power to arrest and carry out home and computer record searches. If the cost of the graffiti damage is over £5,000 the case is referred to the Crown Court where all of the vandals' other graffiti offences can be taken into account resulting in a tougher sentence. This proactive approach is proving successful with offenders receiving higher fines and long hours of community service.

To raise awareness of the environmental damage and costs of graffiti vandalism, the South London local authorities, BTP and Network Rail annually join forces through a 'Graffiti Awareness Week' and hold various events to combat graffiti. These include a high profile graffiti removal advertising campaign, extra clean-ups at parks and town centres and anti-graffiti reward posters in partnership with Crimestoppers aimed at the most vandalised estates in the area.

A different and more controversial approach is being tried by the London Borough of Hillingdon. Following a four-fold increase in graffiti vandalism, the Council has recently run an arts programme for a group of youths aged between 12 and 18 years who have either caused graffiti damage or are at risk of becoming involved in this illegal activity.

'Cash4Graff' is a youth community project where students are taught about urban art and have workshops with professional urban artists who make a living from their work. The young people also have workshops with the Police and Prison Me, a charity that works to educate young people about the reality of prison. The course ran for three months and recently ended with an exhibition of the youngsters' work. Hillingdon Council says the programme was very successful and subject to funding they hope to run it again. For more information contact Jenny Vickers on 01895 250222

## ► Targeting Ticket Cheats

A million fare dodgers have been driven off the Tyne and Wear Metro system in the past 12 months according to figures recently released by Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive which manages the 59 Metro stations. In just one month, November 2006, a total of 494 people were prosecuted for riding the system without tickets and failing to pay the penalty fare netting fines and costs of more than £84,000. The fraudsters now have to pay fines of up to £500 and have their names added to the "name and shame" posters displayed prominently on the Metro system along with a criminal record. Nexus has adopted this proactive anti-fraud strategy to combat the £1 million a year the company loses in revenue due to ticket cheats. It now has its ticket inspectors working longer hours carrying out targeted ticket inspections at stations and on-board trains.

To tighten the net even further on fare dodgers, the operator is using pioneering technology in the form of handheld computers. These were introduced at the end of last year after a 12-



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

month development programme which proved how effective these computers were in exposing cheats on the spot. Each mini computer can issue a £20 penalty fare demand at the touch of a button, but is also linked to a database containing the addresses, signatures and previous record of fare cheats from the last three years. This means that anyone caught cheating in the last



*The handheld computer in operation*

three years can be confronted with their previous record when they are stopped and can be sent to court to face a criminal record and average fees and costs of more than £120.

Nexus has spent £30,000 on hand held computers and was the first train operator to use this technology when the system went live three months ago. The company says it has received many expressions of interest from other train operators both in the UK and abroad.

For more information contact the Nexus Media and External Affairs Department on 0191 203 3112.

## ► Stepping up Security Measures

Latest figures in the National Passenger Survey (Autumn 2006) published by Passenger Focus show 70 per cent of passengers are satisfied with their personal security on trains – the same figure as in the previous spring survey, and 59 per cent of passengers are satisfied with their personal security at stations – a two per cent rise since the last survey. These figures should give some degree of encouragement to operators in the rail sector, who continue to invest in a range of security measures to safeguard rail users.

Recent examples include Chiltern Railways, who has stepped up security to its services and stations in the West Midlands to stop anti-social behaviour at Leamington Spa and Warwick Parkway stations. A spate of recent incidents include graffiti at stations, damage to station property and verbal abuse of staff. In response to these incidents, additional security measures including extra security guards and CCTV monitoring have been put into place. Chad Collins, (Regional Manager for the North) Chiltern Railways stated that "these extra security measures have meant the number of incidents being reported has increased. These incidents are being dealt with and over time the level of anti-social behaviour will reduce".

Liverpool Lime Street and Manchester Piccadilly have now been granted the Park Mark® Safer Parking award, giving Network Rail six main station car parks – Edinburgh Waverley, Glasgow Central, Leeds and King's Cross – with this safety accreditation.

The Park Mark® Safer Parking award is an initiative from the Association of Chief Police Officers aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

It means that the area has been vetted by police and has measures in place to create a safer environment.

A Home Office study showed that vehicle crime accounts for up to a quarter of all crime, and around 22 per cent of vehicle crime occurs in parking areas. Safer parking facilities can see a drop in car crime of up to 80 per cent.

For more information contact: [www.britishparking.co.uk](http://www.britishparking.co.uk)

## ► Taxi marshalling scheme in Reading

Starting this month, taxi marshalling is being trialled for a 3-month period at Reading station to tackle violent and anti-social behaviour. Two marshals will be on patrol on Friday and Saturday nights at the station to help ensure people have a safe place to wait for taxis. They will supervise late night taxi queues to prevent anti-social behaviour and deter unlicensed cabs. Thames Valley Police said trials in other areas of the town have reduced violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

## ► Crossing Crash Driver Jailed

Richard Yates, aged 32 from Rufford, Lancashire, pleaded guilty on 8 February 2007 to dangerous driving and failing to report a collision after the car he was driving was hit by a train travelling at 20mph at Wyke Cop crossing, Burscough, near Southport, on Saturday evening 6 May 2006.

He was sentenced to six months imprisonment at Preston Crown Court.

At the time of the collision the vehicle, a Vauxhall Vectra, is believed to have had two occupants. The car was thrown clear of the tracks and received extensive damage. The train, which was travelling at approximately 20mph, received only superficial damage. The two occupants of the vehicle are then believed to have made off from the scene of the collision in a separate vehicle. No passengers or rail staff were injured as a result of the collision involving the Northern Trains' Manchester Airport to Southport service.

Sergeant Brian Dickinson of British Transport Police investigated the incident. He said, "It was amazing that nobody was seriously injured as a result of this incident. The actions of Richard Yates put his own life at risk and potentially the lives of all the passengers and rail staff on board the train that evening. This sentence highlights just how seriously this type of incident is treated by the courts and by British Transport Police".

## ► Football Fans Give Rail Crime the Boot

Hundreds of Wycombe Wanderers football fans young and old have joined forces with Network Rail to help give railway crime the boot.



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

Wycombe's match with Accrington Stanley on Saturday 20 January was sponsored by Network Rail's No Messin'! campaign – a safety initiative aimed at educating young people about the dangers of playing on the railway. Some 2000 free match tickets were given out to local children and their families who turned up in force to cheer Wycombe on and learn more about rail safety.

A marquee was set up outside the ground before the game giving young football fans the chance to win No Messin'! prizes. Teams and ball boys wore special T-shirts with No Messin'! logos in the pre-match warm-up. At half time, players from Wanderers' kids team took part in a penalty shoot out on the pitch with No Messin'! kit, and then armed with No Messin'! banners they paraded important rail safety messages to the crowd. The match day programme also included a page outlining the dangers of railway crime.

Network Rail hoped that everyone who attended will help in the fight against railway crime by passing on the No Messin'! message to their family and friends.

For more information contact Ian Chapman Network Rail: [Ian.Chapman2@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Ian.Chapman2@networkrail.co.uk)

## ► Children's Art Brightens Station

Children from Bush Hill Park Primary School, Enfield, London, have designed and created a series of murals for the railway station with help from train operator 'one' and local secondary Kingsmead School whose art department provided preparation space and facilities.

The murals were officially unveiled by the children and their headmaster. Guests from 'one' railway and both schools who contributed to the project were present at the unveiling.



Perry Ramsey, West Anglia Business Director for 'one' said, "The mural is fantastic and will really enhance the appearance of the station, bringing some life and colour. It also represents the fact that this is a rail station at the heart of its community and it is wonderful to see the schoolchildren getting involved in a project that benefits the area".

## ► Dangers of Railways on School Timetable

Officers from British Transport Police recently went back to school at Wright Robinson Specialist College in Gorton, Manchester, to give a series of talks, over three days, on the dangers associated with the railway.

The school is situated near to the railway on the Manchester Piccadilly to Glossop and Hadfield line, which has a history of problems with vandalism. The line, which runs through Derbyshire and Manchester, offers a good opportunity for partnership working and is the first line in Greater



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

Manchester to have its own neighbourhood policing team dedicated to engaging with the local communities who use the railway. The team is made up of police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) who consult with the communities along the line to determine policing priorities, find out about local concerns and to explain what is being done to tackle local crime and disorder.

As part of the presentation to the schoolchildren, pupils were shown a 'hard-hitting' DVD showing the fatal consequences of vandalism on the tracks.

PCSO Ray Charnock said, "The railway is an important part of the local community in Gorton and I hope during our time here we have managed to get the message across that it is not a playground and can be extremely dangerous if not used properly".

For further information contact Jon Ratcliffe BTP North Western Area Media and Marketing on 0161 228 4298

## ► Community Rail Partnership

Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRП) based in Lewes works with local authorities, train operator Southern and other local organisations to develop a responsive, good quality rail service. A key part of their work is community safety, as Development Officer Sam Bryant explains, "We use a variety of approaches to increase community safety including addressing traditional safety problems such as trespassing on the line and more modern issues, too. To tackle trespassing, a programme of talks and demonstrations has been carried out along the Marshlink Line which links Ashford with Hastings.

The purpose of this programme was to teach children how to stay safe near the railway and how to read train timetables to encourage use of the train. We hope to recreate this programme along other lines and are also looking to have a presence at Network Rail's No Messin'! events".

To tackle other aspects of community safety, SCRП hopes to create rural station adoptions and a community art project, the idea being to give railway communities a greater sense of station ownership. These types of project are only possible due to the strong partnership ethos of SCRП which is helping to deliver real benefits to community safety. An excellent example of this is the installation of CCTV at Ham Street Station on the Marshlink Line.

For more information contact Sam Bryant on 01737 724159 or [www.ruralsussex.org.uk/partnership/transport/escrp.htm](http://www.ruralsussex.org.uk/partnership/transport/escrp.htm)

## ► New Appointment

This month Chris Leech, Youth and Community Liaison Manager, Northern Rail, is joining the Rail Safety and Standards Board National Initiatives Team on a 3 day a month secondment. Chris will join the team as a community safety specialist and will undertake a review of the



# updateupdateupdateupdateupdateup

mainline rail industry's arrangements for managing the business risk posed by crime and misbehaviour on the railway. The aim of this study will be to identify the extent of the industry's involvement in community safety activities including formal and informal educational programmes, interaction with BTP and interaction with agencies outside the industry, local authorities and police forces. An area of particular interest will be the participation of rail companies in reparation schemes for offenders.

We hope that the review will promote awareness of the tools and resources that are currently available, contribute to the development of new materials and activities aimed at reducing the risk arising from railway crime and encourage the adoption of good practice from within the industry and beyond.

For more information, contact Kerry Taylor email: [kerry.taylor@rssb.co.uk](mailto:kerry.taylor@rssb.co.uk)

## ► Dates for your Diary

### Wednesday 14 March

#### Railway Community Safety Forum 2007 Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham

The event is designed to update delegates about the rail industry's community safety risk management approach, share examples of good practice, demonstrate developments and activities in the community safety area and provide delegates with practical ideas and solutions as well as excellent networking opportunities.

For more information contact RSSB's Conference Manager, Stella Okezie on [stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk](mailto:stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk)

## ► Future events:

### 9-10 May

#### 5th National Crime Mapping Conference

#### Tower Guoman Hotel, London

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

### 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>