

March update

Community Safety E-Newsletter



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the March 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 we will be running the annual Railway Community Safety Forum. The event is now fully booked and we are looking forward to presenting our programme of presentations, workshops and exhibition to over 150 delegates. If you have not been lucky enough to attend, watch out in the next issue of the newsletter for details on how the day went.

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.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

RSSB publishes safety reports

RSSB has recently published a report summarising the safety performance of the rail industry for 2007, and the industry's strategic safety plan for 2008 -10.

The 'Summary of Safety Performance 2007' shows that industry safety performance has generally been maintained, and in some areas improved. However, there was one passenger killed in a train accident at the beginning of the year (the first for over two years). The strategic plan shows industry trajectories for the key areas of risk and gives an industry wide perspective of initiatives being taken by train operators and Network Rail.

To view the documents see:

Railway Strategic Safety Plan 2008-10 http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/strategic_safety_plan.pdf

Summary of Safety Performance 2007 <http://www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp>

RSSB will also be publishing the full 2007 Annual Safety Performance report in May.

Cable Theft – Day of action!

As world metal prices continue to soar, British Transport Police (BTP) joined forces with other police forces, government agencies and industry representatives across Britain in a national day of action to target metal theft.

With metal thefts up by at least 150%, the day was co-ordinated by BTP on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Around twenty forces across the UK took part, carrying out arrests, targeting hotspots and mounting overt and covert operations. Throughout the country a total of nine people were arrested.

In the North East officers used the latest high-tech weapon in the crackdown on cable theft from the railways. The Microdrone (see picture), is an unmanned, almost silent helicopter that can film from more than 350ft above railway lines and surrounding areas. The remote controlled helicopter, which is invisible to the naked eye, is about the size of a dustbin lid. It can beam back live video footage and infrared imagery to police operators on the ground. The Microdrone can even squirt offenders with Smartwater security marking solution that can then be identified by the police.

The Microdrone (see picture) was used in Hartlepool for the first time as part of the national day of action.

Detective Chief Inspector Danny Snee, North Eastern Area said. "This day of action demonstrates that we are prepared to devote considerable resources to target this type of crime. It forms part of continuing proactive police operations to identify apprehend and prosecute those involved in metal theft.

"Metal theft is major crime that has potentially serious economic consequences for the country and negatively impacts on communities in many ways. It is certainly not a victimless crime."

Officers also set up an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) check in Castleford, Wakefield, which is used to link criminals to vehicles and vehicles to potential crime scenes. The ANPR operation involved a number of agencies including the DVLA (Driving Vehicle Licensing Agency), VOSA (Vehicle and Operator Services Agency) who issued 11 prohibitions, the Environment Agency, who dealt with five persons and issued four fines in relation to waste carrying offences, and HM Customs who issued two penalty tickets to drivers. No-one was caught carrying stolen railway cable.

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



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Crackdown on track trespass at Abergavenny Station

Trespassers at Abergavenny station faced a crackdown last month with a series of high visibility policing operations as part of a joint effort between Network Rail and the British Transport Police in South Wales.

A recent Network Rail surveillance project showed that over 40 incidents of trespass happen at this location each week. This is considerably higher than any of the surrounding areas.

Mark Langman, Area General Manager, Network Rail, says:

“The public are putting themselves in an extremely vulnerable position by trespassing off the platform or footpath crossing and walking beside the track for the sake of saving two minutes. Trains in this area can travel at 90mph. The consequences of an accident do not bear thinking about. Through this series of action days, we hope to raise further awareness on the risks involved and eventually deter public from trespassing.”

On Tuesday 5 February a middle-aged woman was fined £50 for trespassing, the following day officers gave a penalty notice of £50 each to two 17-year old males, a 20-year old man and an 18-year old woman who had trespassed onto the railway property.

Following this initiative, Network Rail will continue to work with British Transport Police to organise regular patrols in the area and step-up efforts by working with local schools to educate pupils against rail crime.

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

Crime reduction news for Southern and South West Trains

Figures just released by British Transport Police (BTP) show that crime on the Southern network in 2007 has reduced by 10% against the 2006 total.

In total, there were 543 fewer crimes reported, with violent crime falling by 107 instances and criminal damage down by 225.

Notifiable crime (crime reported to the Home Office) has reduced even further. Just over 14% fewer notifiable crimes were reported last year.

Crime levels are now less than half the number recorded in 2003.

South West Trains (SWT) has also reported a reduction in crime on the network. Figures show that levels fell by 12.2% in 2007 compared with recorded crime in 2006.

SWT has worked with BTP in combating crime, and has seen a 16.2% reduction in bike thefts, a 62.8% reduction of robbery and a 39.5% reduction in line of route crimes.

The figures, collated by BTP, point to the positive effects of safety and security improvements such as CCTV on stations and TravelSafe Officers.

TravelSafe Officers provide valuable extra resources that can be targeted where the problems are. They are a highly visible presence on station platforms and trains.

Stuart Giddings, Head of Security and Crime Prevention, SWT, said:

“This is a positive result and we will be working hard, alongside BTP, to reduce crime further and continue the work of providing a safe railway. Whilst partnership is easy to say it can be hard to achieve and this example shows that partnership delivers.”

For more information, please visit: <http://www.southernrailway.com/> and <http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk/>

Leeds pupils ‘On the move’ with Metro

Thirty pupils from six Leeds schools recently graduated from Metro’s ‘On the Move’ seminar. In mini-workshops at Metro’s Wellington House, they learned how to use Metro’s “yournextbus” real-time text and on-line service, how to plan a journey using Metro’s web sites and bus and train timetables and how to stay safe on their journey.



They also visited the MetroLine call centre and the CCTV control room, from where bus stations across West Yorkshire are monitored 24 hours a day and saw a presentation by the team drawing up future transport plans for Leeds that could include state-of-the-art trolleybuses.

Metro organised ‘On the Move’ as part of Leeds City Council’s Stan Kenyon Challenge. It is an annual award which this year has challenged schools to design a new transport system or a new mode of transport suitable for Leeds in the 21st Century.

Councillor Ryk Downes, Metro’s Chairman, who welcomed the pupils to the Wellington House event, said the Challenge was a great way of getting young people involved in their communities.

“Our children are the public transport users of the future. Having the chance to tell them about today’s network and our current plans, and then getting them to come up with their own ideas is a fantastic idea.”

At the end of the ‘On the Move’ event, every pupil who took part was presented with a graduation certificate and goodie bag by Metro’s Director of Corporate Services Sheena Pickersgill.

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Reducing Suicides on the Railway Project – working with Samaritans

The National Programmes, Railway Operations team at RSSB, exists to help the industry to pursue improvements in major risk areas. The team facilitates cross-industry groups that are focused on understanding the causes of the risks and introducing measures that will lead to risk reductions.

As part of the Community Safety portfolio managed by Alan Davies and Kerry Dolan, one such risk being tackled is to reduce the number of suicides at railway locations working in association with train operators and Samaritans. The aim is to be consistent with the messages and approach and to raise awareness of Samaritans as a source of help, whether this is in the form of training for front-line staff, developing media guidelines on the reporting of suicide, managing passengers and members of the public using the railway and responding to the people in distress. Another aspect is to develop a long-term strategy for the railways.

Two of the train operating companies (TOCs) that have been working with Samaritans are Southern Railway and One Railway.

Southern Project



Samaritans were invited to work with Southern who run 160 stations and were concerned about the number of suicides on their network. They specifically wanted to target suicide hotspots. One incident at Purley station alone created 36 hours of train delay with a total of 65 services cancelled.

A holistic four-way approach is being implemented to address the issue which was based on previous research and work done with RSSB, Rail Fatalities Management Group and ATOC. This includes signs and posters, staff training, pooling of information over time and working with the local media.

The message and positioning of posters and signage was considered by a psychologist. The key was to place a subtle message that would encourage vulnerable people to view them without feeling stigmatised.

The importance of internal and external communication of the project was vital in staff training to ensure front-line staff knew when and what was going on. Having posters up at stations could possibly lead to an increase in the numbers of people

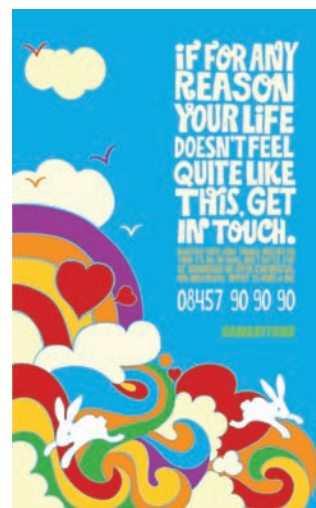
approaching staff and it was felt that they needed to be aware of the project.

Samaritans provided the posters to fit within existing Double Royale frames free of charge and they are now in position at a number of locations across the Southern network. South West Trains have also shown interest in the project and it is hoped other TOC's will also get involved.

One Railway Project

London Northern area British Transport Police have set up 'Operation Equal' with One railway and Samaritans. They have agreed to pilot the posters and carry out a training programme for 6 months and will thereafter agree evaluation techniques for a three year evaluation from April 2008.

For more information on this, please contact: kerry.dolan@rssb.co.uk



Suspicious persons form – sharing good practice

At a recent Thames Valley Local Community Safety Partnership meeting, the ScotRail 'Help Us Help You' forms were presented. The forms were developed to assist staff in reporting suspicious behaviour.

The members of the group showed an interest in this initiative and to date First Great Western, Heathrow Express and Network Rail are looking into opportunities to adopt this idea.

For more information on the forms please email: dave.smart@firstgroup.com

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Pupils produce work of art for Arriva Trains Wales



A strikingly coloured mural depicting scenes from the Rhondda Valley has been unveiled at Pontypridd railway station by BBC Wales's weatherman Derek Brockway.

The mural has been created by pupils from Porth County Comprehensive as part of a project developed by Arriva Trains Wales, Prince's Trust Cymru, British Transport Police and the Mobile Arts Project.

The 15 youngsters, all members of the school's Prince's Trust 'XL Club' worked with local artists Chris Partridge and Ceri Walters over a period of five days in the old ticket office on the platform.

Scenes illustrated in the mural include the new road bridge in Porth, wildlife and a rally car taking part in the Wales Rally GB.

Jez Williams, station manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "This project is about encouraging and nurturing talent among young people. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their time with Chris and Ceri in thinking of ideas relevant to their community before transferring them onto the different sections of the mural. We are proud of their achievement, which will provide a colourful welcome for rail users in Pontypridd."

Arriva Trains Wales' sponsorship of the 'XL' project in 2007 involved more than 120 students from nine schools across Wales taking part in various activities such as producing passenger questionnaires, a station re-painting project and learning about railway safety with officers from British Transport Police.

Each of the nine schools involved have undertaken a project that looks at the negative impact of graffiti; including the impact and cost of graffiti removal.

Pupils from the XL Club at Abergele Comprehensive School gained experience in repainting the town's railway station during a two day project with Arriva Trains Wales staff.

Neighbourhood Policing team celebrates a successful year – Birmingham Cross City Line

The Birmingham Cross City Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for British Transport Police (BTP) is celebrating its first birthday as a team by reducing reports of crime by over 50 per cent.

The NPT has been a huge success and has been working hard to make itself known to rail staff and customers alike, with the aim of being more accessible and available to the local communities.

Operating from Birmingham New Street north to Lichfield and south to Redditch, the team consults extensively with communities who use and work at stations to determine policing priorities, find out about the issues concerning local people and to explain what is being done to address local crime and disorder.

High on the agenda for BTP is reassuring passengers and rail staff by tackling anti-social behaviour and low level disorder that contribute to the fear of crime.

Since the team launched last January 2007 reports of crime have reduced on the Cross City line by over 65 per cent, from 58 crimes reported in December 2006 compared with only 20 in December 2007. Latest statistics for end of January show that 75 crimes were reported in January (2007) compared with only 39 last month, almost a 50 per cent reduction. Across the route reports of anti-social behaviour during January has also been reduced from 27 in 2007 to 10 in 2008.

T/Sergeant John Caisley leads one of the NPT teams, he said:

"We are really pleased with the impact the NPT has made over the last 12 months. We are continuing to build and strengthen our relationships with the communities we serve.

"Neighbourhood Policing is all about tackling local problems with local solutions.

"The key aim of NPT is listening to members of the local community and working with them to develop tailor-made solutions for their local policing needs."

Sheelagh Whittaker, Head of Crime and Security at London Midland, said: "We wholeheartedly support the concept of Neighbourhood Policing and believe that local police officers serving specific local railway lines encourages better relationships with members of the public, railway staff and local businesses.

"They provide a visible reassurance to members of the public and our staff. Since the inception of the NPT on the Cross City Line, we have seen an overall reduction of crime, which is to be welcomed."

The NPT patrols trains, stations and platforms providing a reassuring high visibility uniformed presence. They have become familiar faces in their neighbourhoods and work together with local communities to identify their policing needs and help improve the quality of life in the area.

Dedicated neighbourhood police officers also provide public drop-in surgeries at their stations, giving members of the community the chance to meet them face to face and discuss any concerns they may have.

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

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News in Brief

Ticket gates for Northern – The first automatic ticket barriers on Northern Rail’s network have now ‘gone live’ at Blackpool North. The six new gates will help reduce congestion at peak times, improving customers’ journeys through the station. The gates will also help reduce the number of people travelling without a ticket, estimated to cost the rail industry £210 million every year.

Southern Celebrates 100 Secure stations – Epsom has recently become the 100th Southern station to be accredited with the Department for Transport Secure Station accreditation.

Sat-Nav systems cause damage to railway infrastructure

According to Network Rail, the increase in drivers following satellite navigation devices is causing millions of pounds worth of damage to Britain’s railway infrastructure.

Motorists led astray by their in-car technology have led to a sharp rise in problems caused to railway lines, bridges and crossings over the past few years.

Network Rail said that the number of bridges hit by lorries travelling on inappropriate roads has doubled over the past decade to 2,000 a year.

Network Rail’s PJ Taylor, speaking on BBC Radio Five Live’s Weekend Breakfast Show, said that bridge strikes alone had cost the industry £15 million and was leading to huge delays for passengers.

He said they were now working with sat-nav manufacturers and the Highways Agency to come up with a solution.

He said: “We have 21,000 miles of railway in the UK and often it interfaces with the road network and sometimes we have problems where road vehicles hit bridges or turn down level crossings when they shouldn’t do.

“With just bridge strikes we reckon it causes £15 million worth of cost to the railway industry and that is about a third of a million of delay minutes a year.

“We have noticed a big increase in the number of road vehicles hitting bridges in the last few years. Over the last decade it has doubled to 2,000 incidents a year.”

Mr Taylor said that Network Rail were in discussions with sat-nav manufacturers and were undertaking a project in conjunction with the Highways Agency mapping the low bridges and level crossings. “That data can then be fed into the software for the sat-navs”, he said.

He added: “Sat-navs are a great tool but they are just a tool and not an alternative for keeping your wits about you and obeying the road.”

In relation to this issue, RSSB has recently published a special topic report on the road rail interface, for more information, please visit: <http://www.rssb.co.uk/a2z.asp?section=a2z> (listed as road-rail interface spr full)

Railway message delivered to youngsters at Chessington

BTP School’s Liaison Officer PC Graham Cottington will pretty much go to any length to ensure youngsters stay on the right side of the tracks.

He recently took on the challenge of educating more than 1,500 youngsters during a two-week safety display being hosted at Chessington World of Adventure as part of Kingston’s Junior Citizen Scheme.

PC Cottington said the scheme was aimed at 10 to 11 year-olds and was a vital way of getting the rail safety message across to young people.

During a non-stop session of short talks using the BTP crime reduction trailer, PC Cottington gave each group of up to eight children rail safety advice.

“The sessions involved practical information about standing behind the yellow line, but also, by recreating the railway environment with special foam tracks, I was able to highlight the dangers of the live rail, the importance of not trespassing or stone throwing and showed some examples of youngsters who now had to live with the consequences of losing an arm or suffering significant burns as a result of not adhering to the safety message.

“The kids were very responsive to the sessions, asking lots of questions and wanting to share their own stories of using the railways.

These types of events are extremely important to ensure that children learn these vital awareness messages.”

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Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Railway Community Safety Forum	Wednesday 19 March 2008	Venue: National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, West Midlands For a programme, please visit: http://www.rssb.co.uk/events/community_safety_forum.asp
	FULLY BOOKED	

Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Anti-social behaviour, urban space and the night-time economy	Thursday 17 April 2008	Venue: University of Leeds For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
ACORP Conference – Working with diverse groups	Thursday 1 May 2008	Venue: Nottingham For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
Anti-Graffiti Association Annual Conference	Wednesday 14 May - Thursday 15 May 2008	Venue: The Council House, Nottingham For further information: http://www.theaga.org.uk/
ACORP Community Rail Weekend	Friday 16 – Sunday 18 May 2008	Venue: to be confirmed For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
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

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
10th International Level Crossing Symposium	<i>Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 June 2008</i>	Venue: Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, Paris (UIC) For further information: http://www.levelcrossing2008.com
ACORP Conference	<i>Thursday 10 July 2008</i>	Venue: London For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
'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: London 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

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