

May

update



Rail Safety & Standards Board

Welcome to the May 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.

Amongst other stories, this issue highlights some of the initiatives that have been taking place over the Easter holidays – a time when more youngsters trespass on the lines endangering themselves and others.

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 Taylor, Editor.

► Railway arsonist gets 10 years

A former railway worker, Allan Nichol, 48, of Yardley Birmingham has been jailed for ten years after being found guilty of what is believed to be the worst campaign of vandalism on the UK rail network. From June 2004 to November 2005 he cut cables and set fire to signalling equipment in 12 separate attacks in the West Midlands. He carried out the attacks in revenge for losing his job. He blamed Network Rail's decision to bring maintenance work in-house for his redundancy from a firm that specialised in track maintenance contracts. A dropped till receipt at the scene of one of the attacks, two signal boxes set on fire, led police to study CCTV footage at the supermarket where the purchase had been made. Following some diligent detective work they arrested Nichol. At his recent trial at Birmingham Crown Court he was found guilty of putting lives at risk during the attacks. The court was told his reckless campaign of vandalism caused 2000 hours of delays, disruption to 200,000 passengers, cost £807,000 in repairs and £3 million in compensation. The judge recommended Nichol serve a minimum of five years.

► Holiday promotion for rail safety message

For most train operators, school holidays mean extra work promoting the rail safety message as unsupervised children trespass near or on railway tracks, endangering themselves and others. Over the Easter break the British Transport Police stepped up patrols on Welsh railway lines after youngsters were seen on the tracks at Wrexham in an area close to where a 14 year old girl was



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killed on the line earlier this year. Across the West Midlands BTP used a helicopter to monitor the tracks where youngsters were seen building barriers on the lines and throwing objects at passing trains. Officers patrolled the line in Coventry which is an area with a high incidence of trespassing and vandalism.

After 14 serious incidents in just six months, Network Rail's 'human scarecrows' patrolled the Brickfields footpath crossing in Worcester where children have been seen hitting golf balls on the line, playing chicken and placing objects on the track. Network Rail's maintenance staff kitted out in high visibility jackets and hard hats patrolled in shifts during the week from 1.00pm to 9.00pm and at weekends from 11.00am to 7.00pm – the times when children are most visible playing near the tracks. The 'scarecrows' provided a visible deterrent to trespassers and vandals and anyone they came into contact with was given the rail safety message and a rail safety leaflet.

In Northern Ireland, Translink the integrated rail/bus operator was also busy over the Easter period promoting rail safety through its 'Dead Cert' track safety campaign. Translink's Marketing Executive Ciaran Rogan explained, "The campaign has been introduced to make the public aware that the introduction of new trains poses potential new safety issues. We need to get the message across that new trains are faster and quieter and that CCTV cameras on board and in stations will record those misusing or abusing services. With young people as the key audience we developed a series of key phrases to address key areas such as safety on the platform, on the train, near the tracks, railway crossings, use of CCTV and staff safety. Each message such as 'Faster trains are harder to see. Quieter trains are harder to hear', 'CCTV can CU-CU in Court' was endorsed with the catchphrase 'It's a Dead Cert'. While the number of injuries and fatalities on Northern Ireland's railways is minimal we do believe as a socially responsible organisation that we have a duty to ensure that rail safety messages and potential dangers are communicated to the public". For more information call Translink's marketing team on 028 9089 9400.

Demonstrating the universality of the rail safety message, in South Africa reformed train surfers are at the forefront of a multi-million pound campaign to make rail travel safer. The South African Rail Commuter Cooperation (SARCC) launched an Easter Back2school Rail Safety campaign using 200 safety 'ambassadors' many of whom used to train surf on the roofs of moving trains. They handed out safety leaflets, spoke to commuters and visited schools. Through this initiative the SARCC is aiming to cut rail crime levels and improve rail safety. For more information visit http://www.mg.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=breaking_news/breaking_news_national/&articleid=304508

► Mobile phones just the ticket

Tickets in the form of barcodes sent by SMS text message to mobile phones are being offered to passengers by Chiltern Railways who claim to be the first train operator in the UK using this ticket technology. Following the success of a three month trial in which 6000 mobile phone



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tickets were sold online, the company has now introduced the facility for passengers to open the gates at Marylebone station. Passengers scan their phones through two new devices which have been fitted to the barriers. Staff on board the train and at the station can check the mobile ticket, with special barcode scanners.



This new technology is currently only being used for advance ticket sales for travel between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon to London Marylebone with passengers buying the £5 ticket through Chiltern’s website. The company is now looking at ways to expand the technology which has been developed with a number of project partners that bring together mobile ticket technology with advance ticket sales. One of the partners, ts.com that specialises in advance ticket selling points out that apart from convenience for passengers there are many benefits to mobile phone ticketing. Sales and Marketing Director for ts.com David Oates says, “This is a very secure ticketing method. The barcode can’t be duplicated and therefore it could have potential in the future to be developed as a means of eliminating fare evaders although its use currently is for ease and convenience of passengers”. For more information contact Chiltern Railways press office: 020 7333 3125 or email: press@chilternrailways.co.uk

► Artwork attracts youngsters away from railways

Getting youngsters to stay away from railway lines by using their time more creatively is proving a successful diversion for many kids. At a recent prize giving ceremony in Hull youngsters, who had attended workshops to promote the rail safety message through art, were rewarded with a display of their artwork and designers of the winning posters received MP4 players.



TransPennine Express kindly allowed these posters to be displayed at Hull station. The project was linked to Network Rail’s No Messin! campaign which promotes activities that young people can get involved in, rather than trespass on the railway. Network Rail explain that involving the arts, with their campaign is allowing them to target the outreach workers who work with youngsters that are on the streets and are more likely to cause problems within the community.



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North of the border in Springburn near Glasgow a group of teenagers have been involved in an arts project to remove excessive levels of graffiti on a railway bridge. The West of Scotland Housing Association, working with Network Rail commissioned the art project which was led by a local community arts company. The selected teenagers are on ASBOs. The group spent hours prepping and painting the bridge and the finished murals took three months to produce. The organisers hope this will lead to an increased sense of pride in the local area and fewer incidences of vandalism.



► Partnership provides platform for project

At first glance a ‘Say No to Drugs’ campaign run by the Cardiff Devils Ice Hockey team and a local village railway station have little in common. However local resident Michael Walters who adopted Pencoed station in 2006 as part of Arriva Trains Wales ‘Adopt a Station’ scheme has brought the two together in a partnership which is providing a platform for the campaign. Pupils from Pencoed junior school near Bridgend are displaying their artwork on the campaign, which focuses on healthy living and the dangers of drugs, at the station. Mr Walters who has worked on the railways since leaving school said, “I wanted to do something for the railway and the local community. The youngsters are learning about healthy living and the station users have the opportunity to see their artwork”.



Jez Williams, station manager for Arriva Trains Wales said, “We’re delighted to have been able to provide poster cases for the children to display their work on the platform. In addition to regular reports provided to us on the appearance of the station, Michael has gone that extra mile by engaging with children in an important subject”.

For more details email: customer.relations@arrivatrainswales.co.uk

► Station wins Safety Award for second time

Meadowhall Interchange, a rail, tram and bus station in Sheffield has won a national rail safety award for the second time in recognition of its ‘top class safety, security, station design and



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management'. The Interchange has recently had the award renewed under the Secure Stations Scheme, which is managed by the Department for Transport in partnership with the British Transport Police and crime prevention charity Crime Concern. David Young, Head of Transport Integration at the Transport Executive said, "I am delighted that Meadowhall Interchange has been deservedly recognised again to win this fantastic award for a second time. The Secure Stations Scheme reinforces our assurance to staff and passengers that their safety and security are top priorities".

► Passengers support security measures

Passengers are supporting Central Trains Stop It!, See It!, Report It! anti - vandalism campaign with more than 200 incidents reported in the past nine months. Nearly 4000 stickers have been placed in the windows of trains. The stickers ask passengers to keep their feet off seats, not to smoke, take their litter home and advises them to report anti - social behaviour by ringing a 24/7 British Transport Police (BTP) national number. Central Trains and BTP are urging passengers to remain vigilant and continue to help fight anti-social behaviour.

In response to a recent customer survey, C2C took its message on how it is dealing with passenger safety to Fenchurch Street.



The company was joined by BTP and handed out 'Securely Yours' information leaflets detailing the improved security on its trains and stations. In the past six months C2C has worked with BTP on a number of operations to clamp down on fare dodgers intercepting over 2000 fare evaders. Research shows that most crime is committed by fare evaders. C2C says

its aim is to drive away those who have no business on its stations and ensure that everyone who travels on its trains has a valid ticket.

► A day in the life of ...

Martin Gallagher, Rail Crime Education Manager, Network Rail
Email: Martin.Gallagher@networkrail.co.uk

What do I do?

I am the Railway Crime Education Manager for Scotland for Network Rail.

Unlike almost any other large scale social problem that I can think of, railway crime is predominantly committed by young people, especially the under 16's.



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In Scotland, the law is very clear on how these young people should be dealt with.

The age of criminal responsibility is 8 and not 10, as it is in England. Normally, those under 16 will be dealt with by the Children's Reporter through the Children's Hearing system. This is essentially a welfare system and, in line with that, I work with a huge range of partners to address these problems through education, engagement, enforcement and intervention. The most serious offences – even involving children – are dealt with by the Procurator Fiscal (not the CPS).

What does the job involve?

Too much to include.....!!

I work with a large range of organisations all over the country that have direct contact with young people. These include local councils, the police, housing associations, or groups and charities working with offenders, who have the power to apply for an ASBO or to seek an ABC (acceptable behaviour contract) in Scotland, along with the local authority. This again is different to the system in England. Quite often it will be mainstream and non mainstream educational institutions such as secure units or special schools.

I also attend a wide range of industry / community safety / crime reduction type meetings in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as our own internal meetings, courses and cross functional projects.

I organise many local projects, funding and sponsorships to try and address the issues behind rail crime from a lateral perspective. Talks and presentations are important, but too narrow an approach in isolation.

For example, we completed a project this week involving a group of teenagers from a high crime, low amenity part of Glasgow – Springburn. Some of them have been served with ASBOs by the local housing provider and have been actively involved in graffiti on a local rail bridge. We worked with them to restore some pride in their community and employed a local art group to help them to produce a genuine mural for the bridge. The whole project has been a tremendous success and we are now moving on to mural number two with them (see article).

I also run projects on the environment and transport, and have introduced Rail Safety Representatives into Scottish schools, as well as organising two large events in Scotland this year as part of the national No Messin' campaign. This also means about a month on the road in August delivering key messages to our target audience at the peak time for crime.

Why do I do my job?

It may sound slightly sycophantic and predictable, but I enjoy what I do. It combines two of the things that I have most experience in, the criminal justice system and education.

I work with two fantastic teams and enjoy a large amount of autonomy and responsibility. I don't go to bed wishing I didn't have to go to work in the morning!



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► Dates For Your Diary – This Month:

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/>

► Future Events:

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 ideas.

For more details: <http://222.community-safety.net/events.htm>

The No Messin! 2007 campaign is coming to a town near you! Please see details of provisional dates and locations below:

| Dates | Town |
|------------------|------------|
| 4th / 5th July | Alloa |
| 10th / 11th July | Glasgow |
| 25th / 26th July | Worthing |
| 1st August | Strood |
| 2nd August | Gillingham |
| 7th/ 8th August | Sheffield |

| Dates | Town |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 9th / 10th August | Bristol |
| 13th/14th August | Derby |
| 15th /16th August | Chelmsford |
| 20th / 21st August | Middlesborough |
| 23rd / 24th August | Warrington |

For more information on the campaign, please contact Ian Chapman, Network Rail: Ian.Chapman2@networkrail.co.uk.