

Welcome to the November 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.

This month's issue includes an article on the new Highway Code and the changes that have been made to the rules for level crossing use as well as highlighting some of the awards railway companies are winning for their work in the field of community safety. The date for the 2008 Railway Community Safety Forum has also been announced as Wednesday 19 March. A draft programme for this event is being put together and will be sent out shortly. Please mark this date in your diaries as it will be a key event for all community safety practitioners.

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.

One Railway is runner-up in Community Impact Awards

One Railway has been named as a runner-up in the Community Impact Award category at the EDP Business Awards 2007 for its initiatives to improve local train services and support the region it serves.

Amongst the initiatives which contributed to the train operator's success were its work with Community Rail Partnerships and the scheme to introduce part-time staff at three rural stations in Norfolk, which had been unmanned for over 40 years, thereby improving customer service, reducing vandalism, increasing revenue and maximising third party investment in the railway.

Other work to promote and assist the local communities along its routes included:

- Guided walks, cycle trails, cycle hire, rail ale trails and tea trails
- The successful Adopt-a-Station scheme, where volunteers work with the company to maintain and improve the facilities, appearance and presentation of local stations
- Sponsorship of local arts, sports and regional events (including Norfolk and Norwich Festival, Great Yarmouth races and Anglia in Bloom)

For more information, please visit: www.onerailway.com

Crackdown on vandals at Bishop Stortford

Network Rail in partnership with the British Transport Police and One Railway is this autumn trialling a set of new covert recording devices to trap vandals on the railway at Bishops Stortford. Route crimes such as graffiti, vandalism and fly tipping cost the industry around £264 million every year, diverting resources away from investment. Bishops Stortford was chosen for the trial following a spate of problems with graffiti vandals.

The portable CCTV recording kit which can be hidden from plain sight allows recordings to be viewed remotely. Relevant pictures can then be passed on to the police to investigate and be used as evidence for potential prosecutions.

Patrick Hallgate, Network Rail's Anglia Route Director said: "Crime committed on the railway often results in great damage and cost to the industry as well as delays to the travelling public. It can also tragically result in the loss of life as trespassers fail to realise the dangers on the railway including 25,000 volts that power the overhead lines.

"We hope that by publicising this new trial that we can deter people from trespassing on the railway. Not only could they save themselves from prosecution but also from the risk of severe injury or death".

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

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RSSB influences changes to Highway Code and Driving Theory Test

The National Level Crossing Safety Group (NLXSG), facilitated by RSSB, has helped improve awareness of critical safety issues relating to level crossings in the recently revised Highway Code and Theory Test for learner drivers.

The traditional approach to level crossing risk sees it as a 'railway problem' with little involvement from road authorities. However, over the last four years representatives of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the CSS (formerly known as the County Surveyors' Society) have become active members of NLXSG and great progress has been made.

As a result of this important partnership with the DSA, there is now a much improved section on level crossings in the new Highway Code, which increases awareness of the hazards presented by overhead lines, the application of tactile surfaces for visually-impaired pedestrians, the requirement for horse-riders to dismount, in addition to the full explanation of what's required of road-users in response to the relevant light signals and signs.

Additionally, the DSA has incorporated more questions on level crossing safety which can be selected as part of the Driving Theory Test, which learners must take and pass before booking the practical test.

For more information on RSSB's work on level crossings, contact Alan Davies, programme manager, community safety, national programmes – operations on **020 7904 7964** or email alan.davies@rssb.co.uk

Flashing red lights

Alternately flashing red lights mean
YOU MUST STOP

At level crossings, lifting bridges, airfields, fire stations, etc.



Northern Rail wins top community prize

Northern Rail has won the top prize at this year's Community Rail Awards after being named overall winner for its contribution to community rail development.

The judges said:

"Northern Rail stands out in its systematic approach to engaging with the wider community... Additionally, it has produced a guide for its own staff about working with the Community and has demonstrated innovation and energy in its engagement with stakeholders".

Heidi Mottram, Managing Director, Northern Rail said:

"This is fantastic recognition for the hard work of many Northern Rail staff and community volunteers in making a real difference to their areas, whether that is making improvements to their station or getting involved in community activities".

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

Cogan Station gets a makeover

As part of the restorative justice project co-ordinated by ArrivaTrains Wales (ATW), four young offenders from Cardiff Youth Offending Team gave up their Saturday morning to help spruce up Cogan station. The youngsters worked alongside staff from ATW and supervisors from the Youth Offending Team to repaint more than 80 metres of platform railings.

The team forms part of a multi-agency partnership with staff from departments such as the Children's Services, Schools Service, Probation Service and organisations such as the Police, Careers Wales and Crime Reduction Initiative.

Jacque Harris, Reparation Co-ordinator for the Youth Offending Team, said:

"We also offer restorative justice, general advice and support to victims of crimes committed by young people. The project undertaken at Cogan station will have helped the youngsters learn new skills and in completing the work, will have made a difference in the local community".

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "This is the second station project completed by the Youth Offending Team and we have been impressed by their commitment and enthusiasm. We are working with youngsters to give them an opportunity to learn new skills aimed at helping future employment opportunities and personal development".



In recognition of their participation in the project, members of the Youth Offending Team and their families have been offered a complimentary ticket anywhere on the Arriva Trains Wales network.

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

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Railway cable thieves in the Tees Valley are in for a SHOCK!

Network Rail, in partnership with the charity Crimestoppers, is offering a reward of up to £1,000 to people who help to catch cable thieves who have been disrupting rail services in the Tees Valley.

Excluding the summer floods, the theft of cable which is used in railway signalling systems is the single biggest cause of delay to trains in the region and is costing the industry millions of pounds.

Network Rail has been working with British Transport Police (BTP) to prevent cable theft and to catch the thieves. Now they have teamed up with Crimestoppers to offer this reward.

Dyan Crowther, Route Director for Network Rail said: "We are doing everything we can to stop the cable thieves, including increasing dedicated security patrols and investigating the use of technology used by the security services to protect the cable. Now we are asking people who live in the areas which have been worst affected to help us to catch these thieves and to keep the railway running".

Detective Chief Inspector Danny Snee of British Transport Police added: "After the threat of terrorism, the theft of cable is one of BTP's biggest challenges. Those who steal cable are not just risking a prison sentence, they are risking their lives.

"This is an extremely dangerous crime which is an attack on the community; passengers are missing holiday flights, hospital appointments and business or social meetings due to the delays caused".

In addition to the media campaign, 4,000 leaflets and hundreds of posters highlighting the reward are being distributed in hot spot areas in the coming weeks.

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



Crime recording covers three countries

From the beginning of October, British Transport Police's (BTP's) Crime Recording Centre (CRC) became the first police centre in Britain to record crimes across three countries in the British Isles.

The CRC, based in central Cardiff, has now taken on responsibility for recording crimes committed on the railways in Scotland in addition to its England and Wales remit.

The original Cardiff centre opened for business in April 2006, phasing in centralised crime recording for all offences committed on the rail system in England and Wales, including the London Underground. This process was completed by July 2006. Now the system covers Scotland as well.

Processing over 120,000 reports of crimes and offences a year, the CRC is much more than a call centre. Assistant Chief Constable Alan Pacey explains:

"The Cardiff CRC is the first link in the process of investigation. The 50 operators who work there make a real difference to our chances of detecting crime, by eliciting good information at that crucial early stage. They are also often the key to how victims of crime feel about the service they receive from the police.

"Centralising our crime recording nationally has enabled us to ensure consistency and create a centre of excellence which helps front line police officers, investigators and victims of crime.

Chief Constable Pacey added: "Centralising crime recording frees up staff on local areas in England, Wales and now Scotland to manage crime better and provide a better service to victims. In Scotland, staff that used to record crime are now re-focused on investigation and follow up. No jobs have been lost".

Scottish crime counting rules vary slightly from those used by the Home Office and there are a number of crime categories specific to Scotland.

A detective from BTP's Crime Management Unit in Glasgow has been on full time secondment to Cardiff delivering briefings and working closely with CRC staff in preparation for the Scottish crime recording. As part of the briefing, the detective has been explaining the intricacies of Hamesucken (an assault on a person in their own house), Stouthrief (a violent robbery committed in a person's house) and fire-raising (the Scottish equivalent of arson).

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

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InverNET delivers railway safety message to Inverclyde young people

Inverclyde Council has been working in partnership with Network Rail, the Community Safety Partnership and Community Learning and Development Youth Work Section / Word on the Street Project to deliver the 2007 railway safety campaign. The campaign, which aims to enhance young people's awareness of the dangers associated with railways and about the dangers of railway crime will be delivered by the InverNET bus.

Young people aged between 10 – 16 years old will have the opportunity to board the bus and take part in quizzes and competitions to win prizes and watch DVDs on railway safety. The bus, which will be decorated with posters and flyers on the key railway safety messages will be visiting locations in Inverclyde that are in close proximity to the railways and in areas that have been identified as having high incidents of railway crime.

Gavin Nelis, Inverclyde Council explains:

"The campaign has been advertised by the Greenock Telegraph and in schools. Interested young people will be signposted to the locations of the bus by detached youth workers from the Word on the Street Project, Street Mates and Community Wardens and all youth provisions in Inverclyde. Once onboard, they can participate in the competitions and have the chance to win T-Shirts, baseball hats, belts and dogs tags. The two overall winners of the competitions will be awarded an MP4 player at an official presentation at the end of the campaign".

Inverclyde council has also devised a questionnaire for the young people to complete as a means of evaluating the campaign. This coupled with information provided by the staff daily log, will allow the organisers to assess the success of this initiative.

For more details, please contact: hugh.scott@inverclyde.gov.uk



International Story:

A resident of Hayward, California, USA, has won a top state award for developing a rail safety outreach programme on the Peninsula. Tasha Bartholomew received the "Volunteer of the Year" award from the California sector of Operation Lifesaver, an American rail safety organisation.

Operation Lifesaver has been established in 1972 to help prevent collisions, deaths and injuries at places where roadways cross railways and where the railway has right-of-way.

Programmes are sponsored by federal, state and local governments, highway safety organisations and railroads. The international programme is based in Virginia, and the state program operates out of Sacramento.

Bartholomew is responsible for the rail safety outreach program and during the past year has really stepped up her efforts. In addition to presenting rail safety information to schools and coordinating presentations for fellow employees, Bartholomew set out to reach new audiences. Her efforts have resulted in more than 100 rail safety presentations to nearly 9,000 people, including civic groups, government and public safety agencies. Bartholomew conducted most of the sessions herself.

"I've enjoyed spreading the word", Bartholomew said. "I guess it helps that I truly believe in the Operation Lifesaver rail safety message, which I think makes all the difference".

For Operation Lifesaver information, visit the national website at <http://www.oli.org> and the state website at <http://www.caol.us>.

News in Brief

- **Elsenham pedestrian gate locking system in place** – Engineers have installed a new pedestrian gate locking system at Elsenham station. These gates will be locked when the road gates are closed to allow trains to pass through. During this time, passengers are required to use the newly constructed footbridge when crossing the railway.
- **Transport for London (TfL)** has won its first anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) against a persistent graffiti vandal. The ASBO against Billy Murell (17) prevents him from travelling on the top deck of any public transport bus within England and Wales. It also bans him from carrying any permanent marker pens or any glass cutting equipment on the London Underground, railway property or any other transport providers' property.
- **Automated ticket barriers** - Midland Mainline has announced that Leicester station will soon be fitted with new automated ticket barriers and First ScotRail has recently introduced automatic tickets gates at Aberdeen, Ayr, Dundee and Stirling stations.
- **First Capital Connect** has announced that Hitchin, Huntingdon and Royston stations have all been awarded 'Secure Station' status.
- **Choo-Choo's Community day nursery** at Whitstable station has won an award for 'New uses for station buildings' at the Community Rail Awards 2007.

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Date For Your Diary

Railway Community Safety Forum 2008

Wednesday 19 March 2008

National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham

For more information, please email: kerry.dolan@rssb.co.uk

Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
WACSO Annual Conference 2007: Tackling the Fear of Crime and Disorder in the Community	<i>Thursday 1 - Friday 2 November</i>	Venue: The Hilton Hotel, Newport, Gwent For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Anti-social behaviour in housing and residential areas	<i>Thursday 15 November 2007</i>	Venue: Sheffield Hallam University For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm

Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Building on Progress: Delivering Justice and Reducing Crime in Local Communities	<i>Thursday 6 December</i>	Venue: The Commonwealth Club, Westminster For further information: http://www.westminster-briefing.co.uk/
'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme: Anti-social behaviour through schooling, parenting and the family	<i>Thursday 24 January 2008</i>	Venue: Brighton University For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm
4th Annual Railway Community Safety Forum	<i>Wednesday 19 March 2008</i>	Venue: National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham. To be added to the mailing list, please email: community.safety@rssb.co.uk

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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<p>'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme:</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour, urban space and the night-time economy</p>	<p><i>Thursday 17 April 2008</i></p>	<p>Venue: University of Leeds</p> <p>For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</p>
<p>'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme:</p> <p>Diversity and anti-social behaviour</p>	<p><i>Thursday 5 June 2008</i></p>	<p>Venue: Birmingham University</p> <p>For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</p>
<p>10th International Level Crossing Symposium</p>	<p><i>24 – 26 June 2008</i></p>	<p>Venue: Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, Paris (UIC)</p> <p>For further information: http://www.levelcrossing2008.com</p>
<p>'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme:</p> <p>Comparative experience of governing anti-social behaviour and disorder</p>	<p><i>Thursday 18 September 2008</i></p>	<p>Venue: University of Leeds</p> <p>For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</p>
<p>Anti-Graffiti Association Annual Conference</p>	<p><i>2008 (date to be confirmed)</i></p>	<p>Venue: To be confirmed</p> <p>For further information: http://www.theaga.org.uk/</p>
<p>'Governing through anti-social behaviour' – ESRC Seminar Series Programme:</p> <p>The final conference, situating anti-social behaviour and respect</p>	<p><i>March 2009</i></p>	<p>Venue: Central London, tbc</p> <p>For further information: http://www.community-safety.net/events.htm</p>

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