

Welcome to the September 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 covers some interesting initiatives including the use of the Mosquito device to reduce anti-social behaviour and the setting up of a 'Depot Watch' forum to try and reduce criminal damage. Railway suicides are also highlighted as an issue of concern and information is given on how to try and reduce suicides at stations.

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.

Policing Scottish football with intelligence

The British Transport Police (BTP) has announced that football supporters across Scotland who take part in anti-social behaviour on the rail network whilst travelling to and from matches may be given football banning orders.

Last season, over 70 football fans were reported to the Procurator Fiscal by the Scottish BTP and 44 of them were also the subject of football banning order applications.

BTP's Scottish Football Intelligence Officer Stephen Hughes, said: "One of the main objectives of the BTP's football operation is to ensure that supporters reach matches on time and safely. BTP works closely with the other forces in Scotland, across the UK and across Europe and shares information on known troublemakers. BTP also liaises with colleagues in the Metropolitan Police and organisations such as the UK Football Policing Unit".

Constable Hughes continued: "The legislation now exists and BTP will not hesitate in applying for football banning orders for those who are convicted of a football related incident. In the coming season BTP will continue to use intelligence-led policing to deploy resources at fixtures we know have proved problematic in previous seasons".

Members of the rail industry are involved in tackling this issue and attend BTP's regular tasking meetings. Tactics such as imposing alcohol bans – or dry trains on certain services are discussed.

For more information please contact: David.Hodgson@btp.pnn.police.uk

Anti-social behaviour told to 'Buzz off' by One Railway

'One' Railway has recently introduced a new weapon to a number of stations in the war against anti-social behaviour. The 'Mosquito' systems have been installed at Stansted Mountfitchet, Dovercourt, Frinton-on-Sea, Elsenham, Newport, Whittlesford Parkway, Shelford, Brentwood and Emerson Park stations to deter youths from hanging around the stations at night. The Mosquito device emits a high pitched noise that can only be heard by young people (typically under the age of 25). After a period of time, the noise becomes so annoying that those affected are compelled to move away. The systems can be set to run at certain times, for example between 20.00hrs – 01.30hrs and once activated will run for 20 minutes before going back into 'sleep' mode.



The Mosquito device

Patrick Letford, Crime Reduction Co-ordinator for One Railway said: "The Mosquito systems are primarily a non-confrontational way of removing groups who are causing problems at stations. Since their introduction within the One network, we have had extremely good results. The success of the system has been measured by feedback from station staff, drivers and the Stansted Passenger Group. This has been very positive and there has been a noticeable improvement not only in the cleanliness of stations (less litter) but also in the perception of fear of crime".

For more information please contact: Patrick.Letford@onerailway.com

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BTP set up Depot Watch to help tackle criminal damage

Last month, British Transport Police (BTP) officers organised 'Depot Watch', a new forum to help reduce criminal damage in and around the Ealing Common and Northfields London Underground depot. Local residents were encouraged to come and meet BTP, Metropolitan Police Services, depot security staff and London Underground (LUL) staff to voice ideas and issues about criminal damage at the depots.

Those that attended the meeting were given information on what types of offences occur at depots, for example graffiti. Duty Manager of Trains Michael Henry from LUL explained that graffiti led to disruption of services as LUL has a policy that graffitied trains are taken out of service. He said that in some cases drivers and passengers are put at risk and gave an example of an incident where a red signal had been graffitied in green.

BTP officers explained to the public what information would be useful to know, for example holes dug out under fencing could be entry points, graffiti artists then mark entry points by tying bags or other material to the fences.

In response, members of the public voiced concerns that there was a lack of LUL staff at stations. One member of the public stated that CCTV was useful for the aftermath of an incident but staff are needed to stop incidents occurring or deteriorating.

Forum organiser PC Soraya White said: "By liaising with the public and letting them know who their depot liaison officers are and passing on our contact details (through letter drops, adverts and posters in stations) we hope to make continued contact with members of the public. It is important to gather as much information as possible, as we all know policing is intelligence led. This will hopefully enable us to take a proactive approach and reduce crime".

Following this initial meeting, forum organisers plan to liaise with Ealing Council AMG and Met Safer Neighbourhoods (Ealing & Northfields) to try and increase the participation of more people who are passionate about their community. They also plan to educate and link in with youth organisations such as Scout clubs.

For more information please contact: Soraya.White@btp.pnn.police.uk

Eye Witness contact form

Following the success First Capital Connect has had using its railway crime reporting forms, Transpennine Express has now developed its own 'Eye Witness Contact Forms'. The user friendly forms are to be rolled out to all staff and will be given to passengers to complete if they witness or are involved in an incident. Steve Johnston, Head of Revenue Protection and Security at TransPennine Express said:

"Passengers can be reluctant to give information after an incident and it is hoped that these forms will make it easier to record the details. The passenger will have the option of completing the form at the time, calling the Crimestoppers hotline or downloading the form from the website. Once completed, the forms will be sent to the British Transport Police (BTP) who will follow up all information received".

The success of this initiative will be measured by seeking feedback from the BTP. After one month of operation, it will be possible to assess how many forms have been completed and whether or not the BTP found them useful.

For more information please contact: Steven.Johnston@firstgroup.com

The image shows a form titled 'Eye witness contact form' with logos for First Capital Connect and Transpennine Express. Below the title is a section for 'Your details' with fields for Name, Forename, Last name, Address, Postcode, Telephone number, Work (Yes/No), Home (Yes/No), Email, Date, time, location and brief description of the incident. There is also a section for instructions: 'You may have witnessed an assault or incident on one of our lines or stations and could be able to assist the police with their enquiries. Please fill in this card with your details and hand it in to a police officer or member of Transpennine Express staff. You can also contact the British Transport Police directly on 0800 45 50 40. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 55 111'.

Management strategies for workplace trauma

The railway industry shares with several others the problem of its staff being exposed to traumatic incidents, such as accidents, suicides, assaults and abusive behaviour. The collective understanding of the impact of and consequences of such events is limited. On behalf of the industry, RSSB participated in a study led by the British Occupational Health Research Foundation into the effects and management of work-related trauma. The research was based on a case study involving Royal Mail, which has many relevant characteristics in common with the rail industry, with 200,000 employees in a wide range of occupations across its 17 businesses. The study investigated the rate of incidents, the impact of incidents on individuals' health, how trauma symptoms can be managed most effectively and the monitoring arrangements needed. It evaluated how occupational health and welfare departments can best contribute to the management of workplace trauma, including the impact of pre-incident training, such as how to handle aggression and other ways of supporting staff.

To view the research brief go to: http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T138_rb_final.pdf

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Youngsters 'XL' at Abergele railway station

As part of a sponsorship initiative between Arriva Trains Wales, British Transport Police, Prince's Trust Cymru and ten schools from across Wales, Abergele railway station has successfully been refurbished by seven pupils from the Prince's Trust 'XL Club' at Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan.

Each of the schools involved are working on a project investigating the negative impact of graffiti on society; which includes a survey of passengers at stations and a visit from a British Transport Police liaison officer who has worked with them to raise awareness of the dangers of playing on or near the railway.

Following on from this, the pupils will also be taking part in a poster competition designed to deter graffiti from appearing on the railway.

Dan Twist, 'XL' co-ordinator at Ysgol Emrys ap Iwan, said: "The pupils have enjoyed helping to paint the station and the pupils can be justifiably proud of their achievements. It is quite possible that some of them will not have held a brush in the past, therefore this project will have given them an opportunity to learn a new skill and make a real difference in the community".

Geraint Morgan, community affairs manager for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "The station is an important facility for the town and their hard work has helped to create a bright and welcoming environment for rail users and visitors".

He added: "The project has helped the youngsters understand the importance of teamwork and the ability to work using their own initiative – both of which they accomplished well".

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



News in Brief:

Charity Brake launches national Beep Beep! day

On the 1 August 2007, road safety charity Brake launched its national Beep Beep! day in which pre-school children will learn road-safety skills through a range of fun activities.

For more information visit: www.brake.org.uk.

Anti-social behaviour: Report calls for ASBO analysis

Children's services professionals have welcomed a report from MPs calling for the Government to assess which methods of tackling anti-social behaviour work best.

The report revealed that in recent years there has been a strong focus on enforcement measures such as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) with little attention paid to the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour.

For more information visit: <http://www.childrennow.co.uk/news>

BTP Search dog rewarded for 7/7 heroism

A British Transport Police (BTP) explosives search dog called Vinnie received the animals' equivalent of the George Cross for his work in the aftermath of the 7/7 terrorist attacks and was further honoured when he made an appearance on BBC One's Animal Rescue Live.

On July 7, PC Coleman (his handler) and Vinnie were on duty in the City when they were deployed to the explosion near Russell Square tube station.

PC Coleman said: "Despite choking smoke and poor visibility, Vinnie searched the mile-long route along the platform and along the tunnels at Russell Square to the train at Kings Cross, which we searched for further explosive devices. The conditions were horrific but Vinnie never wavered. I was so proud of him".

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

Four more stations awarded "Secure Station" status

First Capital Connect recently announced that Finsbury Park, Welwyn Garden City, Cricklewood and Kentish Town have all been awarded "Secure Station" status.

For more information visit: <http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk>

RIFAA : "Save a Life" Community Campaign

Rail Industry First Aid Association (RIFAA) is proud to announce the launch of its "Save a Life" community campaign. This is intended to provide basic first aid knowledge to staff and members of their families who attend a single two hour session on a Saturday morning at one of the many venues being made available throughout September.

Each person will cover basic lifesaver skills in resuscitation techniques, as well as how to handle emergency situations. Recent events have highlighted that helping provide vital extra minutes of life support with first aid until professional help arrives can really save lives.

Every attendee will receive a first aid manual and course notes, together with a certificate of attendance, with the invitation to join one of the many RIFAA volunteer classes that are regularly run throughout the country.

For more information please visit: <http://www.rifaa.com/>

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Amir Khan Launches No Messin' Live 2007

On 24 July 2007, Amir Khan, Commonwealth Champion, Olympic boxer (2004), IBF Inter-continental Light Welterweight Champion and youth role model, launched No Messin' Live! 2007.

The launch took place at Euston station where the undefeated champion sparred with Hollyoaks star Claire Cooper ('Jacqui McQueen'). The No Messin' campaign diverts youngsters attention from seeing the railway as a playground by giving them alternative ideas to expend their energy, with 12 events being held throughout the summer holidays across Great Britain. Each event provides a wide range of free activities that encourage youths to get involved and find a new talent, such as boxing, music, dance, basketball, skateboarding and DJing to combat the boredom that often leads to antisocial and dangerous behaviour.

With the support of Amir Khan, No Messin' 2007 is aiming to educate even more young people to the dangers of playing on the tracks. Khan stated: "It's really important to give kids a chance to do something positive with their spare time. It's great to support an initiative like No Messin', which is a free opportunity for them to focus on something worthwhile rather than risking their lives on the train tracks. I have been boxing professionally since the age of 11 and it has allowed me to remain focused and put my energy into something that I could make a career out of".

No Messin' Live! 2007 is part of an ongoing initiative by Network Rail that works with other parts of the railway industry to address crime on the railways.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.no-messin.com>.

Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) addresses suicides on the railway

Since 2003 the number of suicides and suspected suicides per annum on the mainline railway has increased from 185 to 219 in 2006. Each suicide is a tragedy for the family and friends of those involved and each event also brings considerable disruption to the railway system, sometimes leading to staff absence due to trauma.



The rise in suicides at stations in particular is an issue of concern. To try and address this RSSB wrote to all train operating companies (TOCs) with information on the sources of help that are available to try and help reduce the number of suicides at stations. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of a leaflet entitled 'Reducing suicides at railway stations'. This guidance was produced last year by Samaritans in association with RSSB and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC). The leaflet explains that Samaritans can offer advice on measures that TOCs can take including providing posters for display at stations and delivering awareness training for station staff, which would help them to identify individuals at risk and to make appropriate interventions.

The letter also referred to a guide that has been produced by RSSB to assist staff who may experience trauma caused by fatalities. The guide can be downloaded from the RSSB website:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/pdf/reports/research/T317_rpt_final.pdf

An example of the measures TOCs are taking is illustrated by One Railway. One is currently working with the NHS to reduce suicides and as part of their prevention strategy has Samaritan posters at train stations where there is a known suicide risk.

If you would like any further information or advice on suicide reduction, please contact: community.safety@rssb.co.uk or by phone: **020 7904 7674**

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Winchester station – we're watching you!

Winchester station has become even safer after signing up to two crime reduction initiatives, Winchester's PubWatch and ShopWatch schemes, run by Winchester City Centre Partnership. The schemes connect pubs, shops and now the station through a radio link meaning that the partners can work as one and allow establishments to alert the city's CCTV controllers to any incidents.

Station staff will now be able to make contact with the city's CCTV centre and local police should any troublemakers arrive at the station or attempt to cause a disturbance.

Dave Gaudoin, Station Manager at Winchester, said: "This link is a fantastic opportunity for the station to share information with the rest of Winchester's businesses. This link up will act as a deterrent for anyone who is thinking of causing a disturbance at the station and will give extra piece of mind to our passengers who use the station".

Keith Wilson, Assistant City Centre Manager said: "The inclusion of Winchester railway station in both of Winchester's crime reduction initiatives is an important step forward. By working together, this partnership will serve to reduce retail and alcohol related crime in the City Centre by giving members advance warning of potential troublemakers accessing Winchester by rail. In turn, membership of these schemes will serve to make the station an even safer place for staff and customers alike".

For more information please visit: <http://www.southwesttrains.co.uk/SWTrains/News/>

Rail vandal caught by fingerprints left on beer bottle

A vandal who put passengers' lives at risk by placing concrete blocks on a railway track was tracked down with the help of a discarded beer bottle.

British Transport Police (BTP) officers identified Derek Ray using CCTV footage and help from the public, but it was fingerprints left on the bottle that provided the final piece of evidence needed to bring Ray to court.

Detective Constable Jack Warner said: "We reviewed CCTV of the area which showed a man going down onto the tracks holding a bottle of Budweiser beer.

"The man reappeared about ten minutes later without the beer and with the hood of his jumper pulled over his head.

BTP officers searched the collision scene and found the beer bottle which had several clear fingerprints".

The CCTV images of the suspect carrying the drink were circulated and a member of the public identified him. Forensic tests then showed his prints matched those on the bottle.

Derek Ray is due to be sentenced on 31 August 2007 at Southwark Crown Court.

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

One Railway performs a good deed!

On 31 July 2007 a group of Scouts from around the world took part in a day out along 'One' Railway's scenic Crouch Valley Line between Southminster and Wickford in Essex. The Scouts were visiting the UK to attend the 21st World Scout Jamboree 2007 at Hylands Park near Chelmsford, Essex. The event marked the 100th anniversary of the scouting movement.



Accompanied by Grace Stevens, the Community Rail Partnership Officer for the area, the scouts had a chance to explore the beautiful surroundings. They were also asked to provide 'One' Railway with valuable feedback relating to the train service and how best to discourage anti-social behaviour amongst their peer group. This provided a unique opportunity to listen to young people and their ideas.

As part of their visit, the scouts helped local communities with various projects such as clearing grounds and entertaining elderly residents.

For more information please contact:

Ellen.Rossiter@onerailway.com

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Events this month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
10th UK National Problem Oriented Partnership Conference: Building Safer Neighbourhoods Together	<i>Tuesday 4 - Thursday 6 September</i>	Venue: Hilton Metropole Hotel, National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham For on-line registration visit: www.tcp-events.co.uk/popconference
Community Rail Awards 2007 (Dinner)	<i>Friday 28 September</i>	Venue: De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill on Sea For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/
Community Rail Festival 2007	<i>Saturday 29 September</i>	Venue: Hastings For further information: http://www.acorp.uk.com/

Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
Criminal Justice Management Conference 2007: Empowering, Enabling, Smarter Justice	<i>Wednesday 10 October</i>	Venue: The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London For further information: http://cjm.govnet.co.uk/index.php
Restorative Justice: When, Where and How it Works	<i>Wednesday 10 - Thursday 11 October</i>	Venue: Guildhall Winchester, Hampshire For further information: www.neilstewartassociates.com/rj2007
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
4th Annual Railway Community Safety Forum	<i>Wednesday 19 March 2008</i>	Venue to be confirmed. To be added to the mailing list, please email: community.safety@rssb.co.uk
10th International Level Crossing Symposium	<i>24 – 26 June 2008</i>	Venue: Union Internationale des Chemins de Fer, Paris For further information: http://www.levelcrossing2008.com

National Railway Crime Hotline
0800 40 50 40

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