

October update

**PARTNERS IN
COMMUNITY
SAFETY**



This is the monthly newsletter from the industry's Community Safety Support Unit, funded on a two-year trial basis from the RSSB-managed research and development programme.

The CSSU works under the wider community safety banner in support of the industry's efforts to tackle railway crime, level crossing safety, personal security and fatalities management.

The unit can also provide support if required to industry partners interacting with the victims of railway accidents.

If you have items for the newsletter please email the CSSU team at suenelsoncssu@aol.com by the 21st of the month to ensure inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

☛ Stop Press: Stop Press

Recording giant EMI has thrown its weight behind the rail industry's exciting new initiative MusicTraX that will focus on the key role music plays in young people's lives. EMI Music UK has just agreed to support the venture which will harness youngsters' interest in music of all kinds - whether listening to it or making it - while at the same time conveying core railway community safety messages through a specially devised website. EMI's endorsement is a huge boost to the venture which is planned as a major industry initiative in 2006.

☛ Trespass deaths on the increase

A new railway crime report published by the Rail Safety and Standards Board shows good and bad news. While data analysis shows a reduction in vandalism and less robberies and sex offences, it highlights increases in trespass fatalities, attacks on the workforce, racially aggravated harassment and a continued increase in violent and common assault.

The number of reported acts of trespass has been showing a gradually decreasing trend since 2000. Between January 2000 and July 2005, the number of near misses (per train mile) fell by 28%. In contrast, the number of accidental trespass fatalities per train mile for January to July 2005 has increased by 20% on the level in 2000 and by 78% on the level for January to July 2004. There were 39 trespass fatalities in 2005 up to the end of July which is more than the total of 34 for the whole of 2004. Such a large increase is of huge concern to the industry and further work is underway to better understand this.

Recent acts of vandalism related to train accidents show a steadily decreasing trend, with 14% less trains being struck by missiles in 2005 to July than in the same period of 2004. The number of trains running into obstructions fell by 55% between 2000 and 2004, and has fallen a further 10% in 2005 to July on the 2004 to July level. Overall there has been a significant reduction in the level of vandalism year-on-year, with a 39% decrease since 2000.

In the period August 2004 to July 2005 there has been a 12% increase in the total number of violent acts compared to the previous year, continuing the increasing trend since 1998. Initiatives to reduce violent crime appear to be having an effect in the areas of robbery and sexual offences, but assault continues to increase.

Based on the total number of reported crimes to the police between January and

July 2005, the report forecasts decreases in sexual offences and robbery by the end of 2005, with a 7% increase on the level of assaults in 2004 to 7,500 incidents. What is particularly worrying is the increase in violent assaults as 2005 is forecasted to be the sixth year running this has increased on the previous year. This is also the case with common assaults. In addition there has also been a significant increase in the number of racial harassment incidents with figures for 2005 projected to be higher than 2004.

The report notes that the rail industry is currently directing significant levels of resource into the management of railway crime through initiatives such as the cross-industry National Railway Crime group, the Rail Personal Security group, the Rail Fatality Management group, the CSSU and specific initiatives within Network Rail, the British Transport Police and the train operating companies. These initiatives have contributed to the significant reduction in the level of trespass and vandalism related risk achieved on the railway in recent years which is further confirmed by the downward trend in the trespass and vandalism data recorded for 2005. The railway crime report can be viewed in full at www.rssb.co.uk

☛ Crime forum 2006

Following the success of this year's event, it has been confirmed that the national railway crime forum for 2006 will be held at Aston Villa football ground, Birmingham, on Wednesday, March 22nd. The event, aimed at railway crime practitioners, community safety specialists and those working with young people in the crime and anti-social behaviour arena, will focus on case studies and examples of good practice as well as providing a networking platform for sharing ideas. The programme is currently under development but contact suenelsoncssu@aol.com for more information.



teupdateupdateupdateupdateupdateupdateupdate

☛ **£50K reward for rail arson**

A £50,000 reward has been offered following an arson attack which caused severe disruption to train services between Warwick and Birmingham. Network Rail is putting up the money after signalling equipment was set on fire in the Birmingham area. Around 100 trains from Snow Hill to Stratford, Leamington and Worcester were affected and thousands of passengers delayed.

The incident is being linked to a series of similar attacks in the West Midlands and Warwickshire area.

British Transport Police say equipment cabinets between Small Heath and Tyseley stations were set on fire around 2100 on September 25th causing the disruption to the Central Trains services as well as Chiltern trains to London and Virgin trains to Reading and the south coast. Police hope the reward for information will lead to the successful conviction of the offender.

Anyone with any information should call the BTP crime hotline on 0800 40 50 40.

☛ **No Messin' Live!**



Network Rail's No Messin' Live! events held at four locations during the summer have been hailed a major success.

The events, held in Hull, Darlington, Slough and Eastbourne marked the climax of the No Messin' campaign for 2005. Around 5,000 youngsters in total took part in the events at which a range of sports and activities were made available

for them to try out for free - all of which were already available in the areas they lived - as a real alternative to messing about on the railway.

The activities on offer varied at each location but were aimed at the target audience of boys aged between 10-16 and included basketball, self-defence, wrestling, climbing wall, motor-cycling, skateboarding and football.

Other No Messin' Live! events were held in Scotland with the Scottish rugby league delivering free rugby training for youngsters in hotspot areas.

Network Rail will be targeting locations across the country with similar events in 2006 but this time focused on more local locations such as, for example, housing estates close to the railway.

For further information contact ian.chapman2@networkrail.co.uk or go to www.no-messin.com

☛ **BTP clean up on railway offenders**

British Transport Police officers are hailing a crackdown on late night crime and anti-social behaviour at Cardiff Central station a success.

Operation Topaz was in force every weekend during July and August with extra officers focusing on crime at the railway station, on trains and within nearby Central Square.

A total of 68 offenders were dealt with during the campaign, with offences ranging from drunken behaviour, criminal damage and possession of controlled drugs. Twenty people were arrested, 31 cautions administered and three youths reprimanded. Alcohol was a significant factor in the majority of offences detected, say police.

Mike Hurley, retail manager of Arriva Trains Wales/Trenau Arriva Cymru says: "This operation has been good news for our customers and employees. The fear of crime is often worse than the reality but it is important to stress the positive measures being taken by the police to

ensure a safe and welcoming environment, particularly during the late evening." For further information contact geraint.morgan@arrivatw.co.uk

☛ **Time to take a stand**

The Taking a Stand Awards have been launched by the Home Office to reward ordinary people who have made real improvements across the country by taking a stand against anti-social and nuisance behaviour. From organising a litter pick-up with the local youth group to helping bring a case to court, the Home Office says these people are the unsung heroes of our communities.

The awards are now in their third year. In 2003 there were 30 winners and more than 100 in 2004. This year the Home Office, the Co-op and Crime Concern have joined together to seek 500 winners, each of which will receive £1,000 to improve their local area, with a top award of £5,000 for the overall winner.

The Taking a Stand Awards are all about recognising the commitment, energy and courage of people who have made a difference in their communities and inspiring those who want to do more to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Visit www.takingastand.org or email takingastand@crimeconcern.org.uk for more information.

☛ **Crime concerns**

Street crime, binge drinking and job culture are the main things people would like to change in their communities in order to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, according to a report.

The National Crime and Grime Survey, commissioned by Community Service Volunteers (CSV) Make a Difference Day and Barclays, shows that street crime is the main concern of the British public, with 63% of respondents saying they would like it to change. Drugs and binge drinking came second with 55% and job culture was third with 54%. To learn more go to www.csv.org.uk

