

Welcome to the June 2009 edition of UPDATE, a monthly e-newsletter produced by RSSB, in support of the rail industry's efforts to address rail related community safety issues.

This month's issue is packed full of stories highlighting successful initiatives and good practice including a set of British Transport Police (BTP) initiatives to tackle cycle crime and Network Rail initiatives to help educate youngsters on railway safety.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be holding the Annual Railway Community Safety Forum in March next year. The date and venue will be confirmed shortly. We will be seeking the views and opinions of community safety practitioners to help shape the event – so please take the time to complete our survey when you receive it.

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](mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk)

I hope you enjoy this issue of UPDATE.

Kerry Dolan, Editor.

## RSSB launch Annual Safety Performance Report for 2008

RSSB has published its Annual Safety Performance Report (ASPR) for 2008. The headlines are:

- There were no passenger or workforce fatalities in train accidents in 2008. This is the third year in the last four with no fatalities.
- In 2008, 70 accidental fatalities, 422 major injuries and 12,308 minor injuries (including shock and trauma) were recorded. The total level of harm in 2008 was 132.1 Fatalities and Weighted Injuries (FWI). This is 2% higher than 2007.
- Five passengers died in separate incidents – all at stations. This is the lowest passenger fatality total recorded. The fatality rate per passenger journey is also at an historically low level.
- Twelve pedestrians died at level crossings in 2008, compared with nine in 2007. This is the highest number of pedestrian fatalities since 1997 (when there were also 12).
- There were two accidental fatalities involving road vehicle occupants at level crossings. This is comparable with levels seen over the previous three years.
- Fatalities from suicide (209) and trespass (47) totalled 256. This is similar to the average for the previous three years.

The ASPR examines the range of risk experienced by passengers, the railway workforce and members of the public, before considering areas that affect us all: train accidents, personal security, level crossings and stations. There are several sections which will be of significant interest to community safety practitioners, and the data will also provide stimulus for discussion in the relevant cross-industry fora facilitated by RSSB including the Community Safety Steering Group and the Rail Personal Security Group.

Anson Jack, Director of Policy, Research and Risk at RSSB said: "Against a backdrop of increased passenger numbers and freight traffic using the railways, RSSB's report shows the industry maintaining a consistent or improving trend in the majority of key risk areas. The railway is a very safe means of transport and the industry which delivers it remains focused on understanding the causes of those risks that do arise and introducing measures that will lead to reduce them.

"In the area of risk at level crossings, which saw an increase in fatalities, we are reminded of the importance of public behaviour and the industry continues to work with local authorities, British Transport Police and within the community to educate the public and enforce the local rules."

The ASPR is free to download from the RSSB website at [www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp](http://www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp) or for further information contact RSSB on 020 3142 5300 or email [enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk](mailto:enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk)

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## High speed safety campaign targets South East youngsters



A joint initiative aimed at preventing needless and tragic deaths of young people has recently been launched by Network Rail, the British Transport Police (BTP) and High Speed 1. More than 300 schools and youth groups in Kent, Essex and Greater London will have the chance to learn about the dangers of the high speed railway between St Pancras International and the Channel Tunnel.

A special 12-minute DVD has been produced to highlight some of the very specific dangers posed by trains travelling on High Speed 1, the UK's first high speed railway. It features a series of demonstrations by the 'Trainiacs' which are designed to show in a

simple, but impactful way some of the hazards posed by trains which travel at up to 186mph -more than double the speed of most domestic rail services in the South East.

The DVD, which forms part of Network Rail's 'No Messin' campaign, communicates important facts and figures about the speed of high-speed trains, the turbulence they create, how quiet they are, their stopping distance and a graphic demonstration using watermelons to show what would happen if someone got struck by a train. It also shows how electricity can jump through the air and shows the consequences of throwing stones at trains.

Anne-Marie Batson, community safety manager at Network Rail, said: "It is madness for young people to play on any railway line, but owing to the fact the high-speed trains are bigger, faster and quieter, we have developed this initiative to highlight some of the specific dangers associated with them. We hope that by getting these messages across we can help prevent a needless tragedy."

Chief Superintendent Mark Newton, of the British Transport Police, said: "Through proactive patrols along the line of route, close engagement with local police forces and initiatives such as this DVD, we aim to reinforce the simple message that the railway is not a playground.

"High-Speed 1 is a low-crime environment and has an excellent safety record," Chief Supt Newton added. "We intend to help keep it that way."

Ben Ruse from High Speed 1, which owns this stretch of railway, said: "We very much welcome being part of Network Rail's campaign. In an environment where you have a unique combination of 800 tonne trains doing over 80 metres per second with power lines that are carrying 25,000 volts, there would be no chance of survival if you come into contact with either of them. We will always push for the toughest penalties for anyone caught trespassing on High Speed 1."

Swan Valley Community School in Swanscombe is located a few hundred metres from Ebbsfleet International station on High Speed 1. Assistant head teacher Paul Hodson is very aware of the potential dangers the railway poses and was pleased for the school's pupils to take part in focus groups to help devise the content for the DVD. He said: "We welcomed the arrival of the high speed railway to our community, as it opens up opportunities in London and on the continent. However, it is important our pupils learn to respect the dangers of trespassing on the railway or misusing it any other way. Any resource which helps us get this message is very welcome, and the DVD certainly does this. You could have heard a pin drop when our students watched it."

**For more information, please contact: Anne-Marie Batson, Community Safety Manager - [anne-marie.batson@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:anne-marie.batson@networkrail.co.uk)**

## First Great Western tackles staff abuse

First Great Western (FGW) has recently launched a new poster campaign, aimed at tackling the issue of staff assault. The idea for the posters was based on a previously successful national poster campaign widely used by Train Operating Companies (TOCs) a few years ago. During this original campaign, four posters were displayed in conspicuous locations for three months each at manned stations across the network.

Using a similar concept, FGW have produced a poster that has been placed at 100 stations.

Paula Durrans, Head of Security, FGW said:

"In the past, FGW have used a variety of anti-assault type posters and we were concerned that these might not have sent out a clear message. As an output from our Personal Security Working Groups we agreed that FGW would have just one type of poster that would be used at all of our stations."

The posters were first put up in February 2009 and the campaign is set to last for one year.

**For more information, please contact: [Paula.Durrans@FirstGroup.com](mailto:Paula.Durrans@FirstGroup.com)**



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## Government appoints stations champions

Community safety is set to benefit from a new Government strategy to improve the overall quality of stations on the rail network. Stations that are accessible, clean and crime-free are more likely to give passengers a positive sense of personal security when travelling.

In May, Transport Minister, Lord Andrew Adonis rounded off a six-day rail tour of Britain by appointing Sir Peter Hall, President of the Town and Country Planning Association, and Chris Green, a non-executive director of Network Rail and a former Chief Executive of Virgin Trains, to advise the Government on improving stations.

The champions will advise on the minimum levels of service that should be set at stations - ensuring they are appropriate to the stations' passenger flows - so passengers can be confident that stations will meet set standards.

They will also provide advice on how other changes such as 'quick wins', better station management, future franchise agreements, Network Rail initiatives, and longer term investment can be brought about in a way that delivers better stations.

Government initiatives to improve stations include Access for All, in which £370 million has been committed towards improving facilities for disabled passengers, and the National Stations Improvement Plan, which aims to upgrade approximately 150 stations with £150 million of funding.

The Department for Transport (DfT) also sponsors the Secure Stations Scheme which includes a national accreditation scheme recognising measures to improve station security and provide reassurance to passengers and staff. This new initiative will be a way of bringing all stations up to a similar standard.

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/>**

## Writing not on the wall for Midlands rail vandal

A day painting out graffiti on a rail bridge was the prescribed punishment for a teenager who put lives in danger by throwing large objects into the path of a train in Leicestershire.

Network Rail's Community Safety Team works with youth offending teams across the country to educate young people about the dangers of misusing the railway. This girl - who cannot be named for legal reasons - was brought in to help remove graffiti at Langley Mill near Derby after she confessed her dangerous actions.

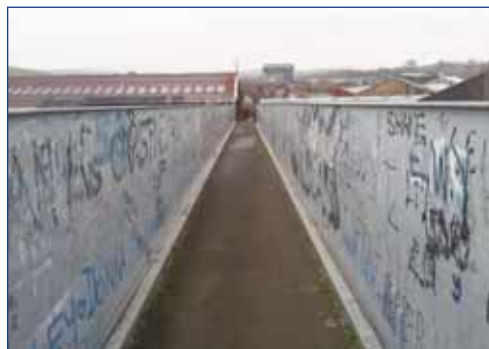
Turner's footbridge in Langley Mill has been plagued with graffiti in recent years and was an eyesore for local residents. Two shifts were spent repainting the bridge, which spans some 75ft across the main lines between Nottingham and Chesterfield and was greeted with a very positive response from locals both during and after completion of the work.

Mark Tarry, area general manager for Network Rail, said: "We treat railway crime very seriously; safety of the infrastructure and our staff and those who travel on the railway is of the utmost importance. Being able to get those who offend to make amends for what they have done by undertaking some work is a great step forward and gives us a chance to educate them".

Richard Pedley, community safety manager for Great Northern and East Midlands said: "It was a great piece of work carried out by the offender, who put in a lot of effort throughout and took much pride in the bridge upon its completion. This was made possible thanks to the Off Track team who work tirelessly to maintain lineside infrastructure".

He continued: "Community payback is one of several measures we will use to tackle railway crime. It gives offenders the chance to carry out some meaningful work to repair some of the damage caused, helps to prevent future railway crime through accountability and builds confidence within the community".

**For more information, please contact: [richard.pedley@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:richard.pedley@networkrail.co.uk)**



**Before**



**After**

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## Bike security improved at East Putney tube station



**BTP officers check for abandoned and neglected bikes**

Cyclists now have more room to secure their bikes at East Putney Tube station after British Transport Police (BTP) officers removed disused and vandalised cycles from the bike racks.

Officers from the District and Circle Line South Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) removed abandoned bikes that were forcing some cyclists to secure their bikes outside of the designated parking areas. Ten disused or vandalised cycles were removed in total.

The officers were also on hand to distribute bike security leaflets and give advice to cyclists using the station.

PC Chris Millard said:

“It’s important for ease of passenger movement and security of the cycles that they are locked in designated parking areas. Recently this has become difficult at East Putney because several disused cycles that were missing wheels, handlebars, seats and other parts were taking up the designated parking space.

“Station staff let us know that the number of abandoned bikes was becoming an issue, which is why we took the decision to remove them. We have now freed up valuable storage space and taken the opportunity to offer crime prevention advice to those who will be using it.”

As well as removing vandalised cycles, officers also removed some that could be considered rideable but had been abandoned and left to decay.

The cycles will be placed into storage at Hammersmith BTP station on Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, for a period of two weeks, during which time owners can come forward to claim them back. Cycles that remain unclaimed will be recycled locally or put up for auction.

Posters have also been displayed at the station informing people of the cycle clean-up.

PC Millard added:

“As well as taking up valuable bike parking space, abandoned bikes are an eyesore.

“Vandalised and derelict bikes can contribute to an atmosphere of decay that makes people feel unnecessarily fearful - the station has very low levels of crime.

“We hope that cyclists will find it easier to lock their bike in the designated area at the station and the station will generally look a bit cleaner following the removal of these eyesores.”

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



## Other cycle news.....

### British Transport Police (BTP) targets bike theft hotspots with crime reduction advice

British Transport Police crime reduction officers are embarking on another circuit of educational surgeries to encourage owners of pedal cycles to ensure their property is more secure.

Officers are giving away free tagging devices, along with checking bike racks and leaving crime prevention advice to those owners who fail to adequately lock and secure their pedal cycles.

BTP PC Jerry Isterling said officers would be touring south London, Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire over the next four months to try and ensure as many commuters as possible have their bikes securely marked.

BTP is offering free electronic tagging devices called Immobitag to be fitted on to bikes. The tags ensure that stolen bikes are easier to identify and give back to their original owners if recovered.

### BTP sets up cycle squad to catch bike thieves

A dedicated cycle squad has been established in the South West Quadrant to target bike thieves operating on railway stations. The squad, which is being led by DS Sarah White, consists of two DCs and two civilian investigators.

London South this year has a policing target around cycle crime. DS White said the unit had only been in place for three weeks but was already making great inroads into catching offenders.

“We’ve made several arrests already, particularly involving perpetrators who have been targeting hotspot locations like Fleet and Woking.

“We believe some of the recent arrests will be linked to up to 40 offences that have been occurring on the railway.

“Our work is not about just tracing those stealing bikes, but also looking into where the goods are being sold onto.”

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



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## Ticket gates go active at London Midland's Snow Hill station

Automatic ticket gates have been activated at Birmingham's Snow Hill station as part of a £2.7 million investment by train company London Midland.

The work, which is part of London Midland's franchise commitment, will be completed when gates are installed at Birmingham New Street Station later in the year. The gates were part of London Midland's continuing investment in Birmingham and essential in reducing fare evasion.

British Transport Police's Chief Inspector Gregory said: "The BTP will be supporting London Midland in the introduction of ticket barriers across its Birmingham operations.

"We are aware that the barrier system is a cultural change for some passengers and our officers will be keen to assist London Midland staff in enabling customers to make the transition.

"There is an established correlation between people who travel without tickets and anti-social behaviour so the introduction of ticket barriers will bring enormous benefits for fare-paying passengers and staff.

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.londonmidland.com/>**

## Young people to 'earn back' free travel

Young people denied free travel on London transport due to bad behaviour will get the chance to earn their privileges back through volunteering.

The Payback London scheme will require young people to perform one day of volunteering before having their privileges restored.

London's mayor Boris Johnson has begun a search for a firm to help run the scheme due to start in September.

Payback London will apply to young people aged 11 to 18 who have had their Zip photocards removed for breach of Transport for London's (TfL) behaviour code.

**For more information, please visit: <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>**



## Corby youngsters give railway crime a knockout punch



Corby is one of the worst areas in the East Midlands for railway crime with 20 recorded incidents in 2008. That is why Network Rail has joined forces with the Educational Sports Forum (ESF) at the opening of the newly refurbished Corby Olympic Amateur Boxing Club.

The aim is to encourage Corby youngsters to stay away from the railway, as well as giving them educational support and an opportunity to try exciting activities like boxing.

Over the years Corby Amateur Athletic Boxing Club at Saxelby has produced several successful boxers, including current Southern Featherweight Champion Akaash Bhatia. It had recently been threatened with closure, after being at the heart of the local community for over 30 years. A major overhaul of the club, part funded by Network Rail, has ensured it will remain open for many years to come.

Richard Pedley, community safety manager for Network Rail, said: "Corby is a real hotspot for railway crime, but rather than lecture kids we find it's far better to give them the chance to get involved in positive activities which keep them out of trouble.

"We've also provided funding for a support worker to help young boxers with their school work, job applications or college or university projects. That will make a genuine difference to the community as well as helping reduce trespass and vandalism."

A major launch of the club was held on 6 May 2009, with special guest Troy James, a boxing prodigy from the Midlands managed by retired world champion Barry McGuigan who sparred with and spoke to the young boxers. Troy commented: "Its great to see so many kids training at this fantastic gym, and the learning centre will give them a real opportunity to work on and improve their education".



**For more information, please contact: [richard.pedley@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:richard.pedley@networkrail.co.uk)**

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## Making life difficult for cable thieves

Cable thieves are costing the railway millions of pounds each year. In 2008/09 Network Rail recorded 747 incidents of cable theft which caused around 380,000 delay minutes and cost £7.8m in compensation costs alone.

One of the major issues with the thefts is that, once the cable is taken away from site, it is virtually impossible to prove that it was stolen from the railway. Now Network Rail has approved a new type of cable to be used - one that is harder to cut in the first place and - if it is stolen - is much easier to trace.

Richard Lungmuss, route director for the London North Eastern route, explains: "We wanted to find a way to make the cable traceable if stolen. Existing power cable is hard to identify particularly if stripped or burnt back to the copper cores. This makes it difficult for the British Transport Police (BTP) to arrest and prosecute people.

"We've made the new cable easily identifiable by giving it a distinctive colour unique to Network Rail. The outer sheath is embossed with our company name and the engineers' line reference to show where it's been installed. We've also added a tracer thread which means the cable can be identified as ours even if it is stripped back to the copper cores."

The new cable has the following features:

- The inner and outer sheaths are flame retardant.
- A corrugated steel sheath protects against fire and water.
- The cable is easily identifiable to the BTP and scrap dealers.
- The cost increase of the cable is minimal despite the new features.

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

## BTP launch new website to educate youngsters

The winning entry in a national competition to design a railway safety poster was recently unveiled on the massive TITAN television screen at Glasgow Central station.

British Transport Police (BTP) used the Easter school holidays in Scotland to warn youths about the dangers posed by the railways.

The graphic poster by Caitlin Casey (aged 15) a 5th year pupil from Rosshall Academy, in Glasgow - using the strap line Don't Make Yours a One Way Ticket - is intended to warn youths about the dangers associated with the rail network will now feature, along with others from the same school, on the BTP section TeachingZone – a website for school pupils and teachers.



TeachingZone has a wide variety of free downloadable resources for lesson plans and projects aimed at keeping safe - not just on the railway.

Chief Superintendent Martyn Ripley, area commander of the Scottish area of British Transport Police, said:

"Route crime remains a major issue and a priority for British Transport Police and Network Rail.

"We know from experience that with the onset of lighter night incidents increase and those who throw stones at trains, trespass and obstruct the railway line are usually of school age. So it is refreshing to see pupils becoming involved such a worthwhile project which will help raise the awareness of how dangerous and unforgiving an environment the railway can be."

To visit the website: [www.teachingzone.org](http://www.teachingzone.org)

For more information: [david.hodgson@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.hodgson@btp.pnn.police.uk)

## News in Brief

**New Chief Constable for BTP** – British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) has announced Andrew Trotter as the next Chief Constable of British Transport Police. Mr Trotter has been the Deputy Chief Constable for more than five years.

**First BTP office opened on Glasgow Subway** – A permanent base for BTP officers has been established on the Glasgow Subway. The dedicated office at St Enoch Subway station is part of the enhanced policing service now in place for the Subway network.

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## School children in Ireland have the chance at dream job!

Pupils at local schools in Ireland could have the opportunity to fulfil childhood dreams.

A taste of life as a train driver - albeit behind the wheel of Translink's rail simulator - is up for grabs in a competition which aims to increase awareness of safety issues.

Year eight, nine and ten students are being invited to put together a poem, drama, dance or song on the theme of rail safety for performance at Belfast Central station in June.

Communications manager Lynda Shannon said: "With summer approaching we are promoting the safe use of rail services. While safety is a priority throughout the year, the summer months can be a time for particular concern.

"This competition is designed to bring rail safety to the forefront of the school children's minds. We want to get them safety smart, for a carefree and enjoyable time over the coming summer months. This is a great way to get young people involved to think about rail safety issues with the novel prize of an interesting and fun day out."

The competition forms part of a wider safety campaign by the public transport operator, including regular visits to schools and community groups by the Safety Bus team and local managers.

Ms Shannon added: "Safety, for all our passengers, is a top priority and we are engaged in an ongoing campaign to raise awareness and promote responsible behaviour on and around public transport.

"It is important at this time of year that we step up this campaign to reinforce the safety messages among our young people. We look forward to receiving pupils work and hope that the 'rail safety' theme inspires many creative entries."

Full details of the competition can be found at: [www.translink.co.uk/tlperformanceartscomp.asp](http://www.translink.co.uk/tlperformanceartscomp.asp)

## Community Safety Resource Centre

### *Have You Signed Up Yet?*

**The 2009 Community Safety Forum saw the launch of the Community Safety Resource Centre website, a one-stop-shop for industry resources and information on community safety issues.**

**The site will only be accessible to industry – users can apply for a login username and password via the main home page at:**

**[www.railcommunitysafety.com](http://www.railcommunitysafety.com)**

## News from Overseas

### **GO Transit supports National Rail Safety Public Awareness Week**

GO Transit recently supported the National Rail Safety Public Awareness Week, April 27 to May 3, 2009. The main focus of the week was helping to reduce crossing collisions and trespassing incidents along Canada's railways and GO's goal was to educate the public on safety around its railway crossings, tracks and at stations.

During the National Rail Safety Week, GO Transit hosted a Rail and Road Safety Day, welcoming over 400 grade three and four students to learn safety lessons in an interactive way. Students spent a day at Union Station participating in 13 educational stations hosted by members of the Toronto Area Safety Coalition. GO has also held a customer contest on its website highlighting the importance of rail safety.

Throughout the year, GO participates in many safety outreach events and partners with the rail industry, safety organisations, law enforcement, and different levels of government to promote safety and reduce preventable accidents. GO Transit is dedicated to keeping the public and its customers safe. GO's safety programs and practices have made the system one of the safest in North America.

For more information on the National Rail Safety Public Awareness Week, please visit Operation Lifesaver's website at [www.operationlifesaver.ca](http://www.operationlifesaver.ca). For GO information, visit [www.gotransit.com](http://www.gotransit.com)

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## Events this Month:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
The 14th Annual Conference of the National Community Safety Network	<i>Tuesday 9 – Wednesday 10 June 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Leeds For further information: <a href="http://www.community-safety.net/conference2009/home.htm">http://www.community-safety.net/conference2009/home.htm</a>
European Level Crossing Awareness Day	<i>Thursday 25 June 2009</i>	For further information please contact <a href="mailto:alan.davies@rssb.co.uk">alan.davies@rssb.co.uk</a>

## Future Events:

Event Name	Date	Event Details
ACORP - Value of Volunteers	<i>Wednesday 15 July 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Brian Jackson Centre - Huddersfield For further information: <a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a>
Transport planning for major sporting events 2009	<i>Thursday 2 July 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> The Barbican, London For further information: <a href="http://www.itmworld.com/index.php">http://www.itmworld.com/index.php</a>
ACORP Community Rail Awards – Carlisle	<i>Friday 25 September 2009</i>	<b>Venue:</b> Carlisle For further information: <a href="http://www.acorp.uk.com/">http://www.acorp.uk.com/</a>
ACORP- Working with other modes	<i>March 2010</i>	<b>Venue:</b> TBC
Railway Community Safety Forum 2010	<i>Wednesday 17 March 2010 (date to be confirmed)</i>	<b>Venue:</b> TBC For further information email: <a href="mailto:community.safety@rssb.co.uk">community.safety@rssb.co.uk</a>

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**National Railway Crime Hotline**  
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