



CONFIDENTIAL CLOSE CALL KEEP REPORTING... WE ARE LISTENING!

Contact the Editor

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Metro, ATU Local 689, and IBT Local 922 take close calls seriously. Metro has approved the below safety actions to address concerns from employees who have made confidential reports directly to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Quality Assurance, Internal Compliance and Oversight (QICO) tracks these actions for management to ensure completion and ongoing compliance.

In an effort to ensure that employees are aware of the progress with the bus shields; a quarterly summary will be distributed to all Bus Divisions and union presidents to communicate updates to employees.

Responsible party: Sebastian Silvani, BTRA

Completion Date: Ongoing

Employee Concern: Failure to follow Hot Work Program and proper procedures while Oxi/Acetylene tank is in use

When performing jobs involving the use of oxi/acetylene tanks, all rules should be followed for the safety of all working in the vicinity. Before performing any tasks involving welding or cutting, employees should always obtain a hot work permit.

Actions: Rail Services will take the following measures to ensure that employees are knowledgeable of the Hot Work Program requirements and the rules while performing welding and cutting task:

- Hold tool box meetings within TRST, CMNT, ATCM, and TRPM to review the one page summary of requirements contained in the current Hot Work Program.
Responsible party: M. Davis, L. Skelton, D. Newman, M. Hass
Completion Date: 1/31/17
- The Fire Marshal's Office is currently working to update the Hot Work Policy and will work to include a Hot Work custody process at each work location, add signage on oxi/acetylene tanks, and provide refresher certification for those whose job tasks infrequently include welding and cutting.
Responsible party: SAFE
Completion date: TBD



Employee Concern: The safety shield's glare/reflection creates hazardous visibility issues for Metrobus operators.

The safety shield's glare/reflection creates visibility issues is a transit industry concern. Although the shields are in place to protect the operator, the visibility concerns impact Metrobus operators, passengers, and the general public.

Actions: A Safety and Ergonomics Task group comprised of two 689 employees (bus operators), two 922 employees (bus operators), Bus Safety, Bus Operations, and Bus Engineering was developed to help solve the bus shield glare and reflection problem.

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Employee Concern: Flagmen are not using headsets while operating Class 2 vehicles because headsets are unreliable.

Headsets ensure positive communication during Class 2 vehicle movement. It is imperative that there is continual positive communication while operating equipment in the yard to avoid incidents from occurring.

Actions: In order to maintain and ensure positive communication in the yards during equipment movement, the following will be implemented by Rail Services:

- TRST, in conjunction with OCC will evaluate Rule 3.96 in the MSRP to determine if clarity can be given to employees to recognize when communication is lost

Responsible party: Mike Davis, TRST

Completion Date: 1/31/17

- TRST and COMM leadership will establish a PMI schedule for track equipment headsets to ensure functionality.

Responsible parties: L. Jones & G. Johnson

Completion Date: 1/1/2017

- Batteries will be replaced in older existing headsets and additional batteries and spare headsets will be procured.

Responsible parties: C. Samms, G. Johnson, T. Howard, and C. Abarca

Completion Date: 1/31/17

- Each flagman will be trained to pair headsets to the Prime Mover onboard equipment. Training will be documented and will require a signature.

Responsible parties: C. Samms, G. Johnson, E. Hardy

Completion Date: 1/31/17

- SOP will be developed to define functionality of headset testing

Responsible parties: G. Johnson, E. Hardy

Completion Date: 1/1/17

- Review the pre-trip inspection form and update if necessary with headset functionality.

Responsible party: Chavon Samms

Completion date: 1/1/17



Employee Concern: Improper request for roadway protection for a specific area

WMATA has roadway protection levels in place to keep employees safe while working on roadway locations throughout the system. RTRA issued Permanent Order No. T-16-04 for the Greenbelt Test Track to inform employees of the proper level of protection required (foul time as a minimum) while working in this specific location.

Actions: In order to ensure that maintenance and ROCC controllers are reminded of the special conditions surrounding the Greenbelt Test Track access, permanent order T-16-04 will be distributed to all RWP-certified employees and signature acknowledging receipt will be required.

Responsible party: Andrew Off, RAIL

Completion Date: 2/24/17



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Employee Concern: The location of the fare box on the TAGS Ford bus

The location of the fare box on TAGS buses creates visual obstructions for the operator's right-side view, becoming a potential causal factor in an accident.

Actions: In an effort to eliminate the visibility hazard caused by the fare box location on the TAGS buses, Bus Maintenance and Bus Engineering has exchanged the Ford Econoline buses with six (6) Orion VII transit buses painted in the TAGS colors.

Responsible party: Various BMNT & BENG

Completion Date: Completed

