



# CONFIDENTIAL CLOSE CALL

## KEEP REPORTING... WE ARE LISTENING!

July 2017

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 (BTS). These action items are tracked internally to ensure completion and ongoing compliance.



### Employee Concern: No formal written procedure regarding Lock-Out/Tag-Out (LOTO)

Although there is a common practice taught during Power Training courses, no formal LOTO procedure is written. The absence of a formal LOTO procedure causes confusion amongst work groups and has the potential for endangering employees.

**Action:** Traction Power Maintenance is mitigating risks associated with LOTO tasks through initiatives, including a mandatory High Voltage NFPA refresher in June which focused on working around energized equipment. In addition, TRPM will implement the following:

- Develop a standardized LOTO procedure, which will include proper personal protective equipment (PPE) required, radio communication requirements, personal responsibilities, and other applicable rules.  
*Completion date: 9-18-17*
- Upon completion of the new LOTO procedure, all TRPM employees will be trained and provided a copy. *Completion date: 11-28-17*
- Instituted a 14-week training program to include Electrical Safety for Traction Power.  
*Completion 8-7-17*

**Responsible party:** Mike Hass, RAIL

*Completion Date: 11/28/17*

### Employee Concern: Failure to follow communication procedures for blocking/clamping during recertification

While the practice of recertification is common, it is important that complacency is not demonstrated. WMATA policies and procedures should be followed by both the instructor and the student during any certification.

**Action:** There will be a reminder disseminated to all certification instructors and train operators regarding the proper procedures during recertification.

**Responsible party:** Ron Lewis

*Completion Date: TBD*



**Contact the Editor**

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### Employee Concern: Air quality in select station kiosks

In 2009, WMATA completed system-wide tunnel dust sampling, where total airborne dusts and respirable dust and metals were reported below OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs). Since the system-wide report, MetroRail operations have not significantly changed.

**Actions:** SAFE/EMIH will have URS Corporation perform air sampling in compliance with OSHA requirements on kiosks level, platform level, and end gate locations. They will assess the concentration of airborne dust and metals, and potential exposures to total and respirable dust and metals. These test will be conducted during the morning or evening rush hour time frames to capture the worst-case scenario. Testing is tentatively scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>-September 8<sup>th</sup> at Dunn Loring, Pentagon, Pentagon City, Crystal City, Foggy Bottom, DuPont Circle, Metro Center, Union Station, Navy Yard, Bethesda, Capitol South, and Georgia Ave-Petworth.

**Responsible party:** Doug Connett, SAFE

**Completion Date:** 11/17/17

### Employee Concern: Leaking diesel emission fluid causing build-up

Diesel emission fluid is a highly corrosive new product in the industry. When exposed to air the fluid will crystalized and can cause build-up. Upon examination of the leakage Bus Maintenance and Environmental believes the leakage may be caused by the corrosion of pipes.

**Actions:** As an immediate mitigation to stop the leakage, BMNT placed absorbent pads around the affected area to soak up the fluid. In addition, SAFE and BMNT will collaborate with contractors specializing in diesel emission fluid to examine the corrosion of pipes and recommend solutions to resolve the issue.

**Responsible party:** Raquelle Gilbert, SAFE  
Bruce Hobbs, SMNT

**Completion Date:** TBD



### MEET THE CLOSE CALL TEAM!

The Close Call Team (BTS, L-689 & L-922) will visit bus divisions on the dates below to provide information to all employees on the Confidential Close Call Reporting Program.

Northern: 7/27 @ 11:30am & 1pm

Bladensburg: 8/1 @ 11am

Southern Ave: 8/3 @ 11:30am

Four Mile Run: 8/8 @ 10:30am

Shepherd Pkwy: 8/15 @ 1pm

West Ox: 8/24 @ 12pm

Montgomery: 9/5 @ 11am & 3pm

Western: 9/12 @ 11 am

Landover: 9/19 @ 1pm





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April 2017

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 (BTS). These action items are tracked internally to ensure completion and ongoing compliance.



### Employee Concern: Non-Revenue WMATA vehicles parked in bus zones.

Parking in bus zones is illegal. When bus zones are blocked, it creates a hazard for customers, especially ADA customers who require accessibility to the curb lane to enter/exit the bus.

**Actions:** Bus management issued a memorandum to all bus managers effective immediately that all non-revenue WMATA vehicles, including **scout cars** are prohibited from parking in bus zones, except when responding to a service call behind a bus.

Bus Management asks that if anyone observes a Non-revenue vehicle, with the exception of MTPD, parked in a bus zone, report to BOCC the vehicle number and acronym.

**Responsible party:** Tyrus Dowtin, BTRA

**Completion Date:** 4/10/17

### Employee Concern: Congestion in Langley Park neighborhood cause delays and unsafe turns.

Langley Park is a heavily populated area, which becomes congested during peak hours. Bus operators have reported the difficulties faced while servicing the area due to school buses, vendor traffic, and illegally parked cars. Many operators have required assistance out of the area due to illegally parked vehicles prohibiting operators to make proper turns.

**Actions:** In an effort to improve conditions for bus operators that service this area, Bus Management will work with local authorities to increase parking enforcement and traffic monitoring.

**Responsible party:** Robert Potts, BTRA

**Completion Date:** ongoing

### Employee Concern: Piercing sound of alarm for stinger system in shops

**Actions:** SAFE performed an assessment of the stinger alarms at both Alexandria Yard and Brentwood Yard. Although the assessment revealed that the decibel levels are within OSHA regulations, the volume created a piercing sound to employees throughout the shop. SAFE will adjust the sirens to reduce the noise to level. Currently, siren adjustments have been completed at Brentwood Yard and work will begin at Alexandria Yard on May 1st.

**Responsible party:** Chad Krukowski, SAFE

**Completion date:** 7/1/17

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