

## **Metrolink Train Collides with Freight in Fullerton, at Least 18 Injured**

- **Metro Buses were dispatched beginning at 2:50 p.m. from Union Station to provide service to Metrolink Orange County line patrons.**

(November 18) A five-car Metrolink train, No. 602, en route to Oceanside from Los Angeles with about 60 passengers onboard collided with cars of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe freight train in Fullerton about 8:17 a.m., today. News reports said 18 people had been injured and that the most serious injury was a broken leg.

Four of the freight cars were reported to be overturned and two others derailed. Firefighters put out a fire caused by a fuel spill from the Metrolink engine and another fire involving contents of the freight train. The cause of the accident, which occurred in an area where four tracks merge into two, is under investigation.

The accident disrupted service for the 5,200 commuters who usually ride Metrolink's Orange County line. The MTA provided emergency bus service from Union Station to Orange via Commerce, Norwalk, Fullerton, and Anaheim. Metrolink scheduled service to Orange County via its San Bernardino line, but officials said commuters could expect to add an hour and 45 minutes to their commute.

A dozen or more ambulances were dispatched to the scene where paramedics treated injured passengers. The injured were transported to local hospitals. The City of Fullerton also dispatched fire trucks and a hazardous materials team to the area.

Metro Buses were dispatched beginning at 2:50 p.m. from Union Station to provide service to Metrolink Orange County line patrons. That service was to continue until at least 6:50 p.m., the normal departure time of the last Metrolink train from Union Station, according to the Bus Operations Control Center.

Although the Orange County line is not currently in operation, all other Metrolink lines are operating. Information on schedules was to be posted Metrolink's web site at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).

The MTA operated the Metrolink bus bridge from its Mobile Emergency Control Center, which it positioned on Patsaouras Plaza. Senior TOS John Dover and Dispatchers Tom Medlock and Carlos Morales coordinated the buses and operators assigned to the bus bridge.

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