



## **Extra Staff on Duty Starting Tuesday for Y2K; 'Round-the-Clock Vigil for Critical Systems**

While no Y2K problems are anticipated, employees are reminded that if they hear or see media reports of serious incidents, they should call a special MTA hotline that is activated in any major emergency:

**213.680.1531**. There will be instructions on when and where to report to work.

By Bill Heard, Editor

(Dec. 27) As many as 200 extra staff members and MTA policing partners will be on duty New Year's Eve for possible emergency service at MTA Headquarters and the operating divisions as the calendar turns over to the 21st Century.

Although no major Y2K problems are anticipated, the agency is gearing up beginning Tuesday morning, Dec. 28, with 24-hour coverage for such mission-critical systems as the computer network, Vehicle Maintenance System, Materials Maintenance System, Human Resources, FIS, payroll, Rail Incident Management System and the Transit Radio System.

### **Emergency Council set**

On Friday - New Year's Eve - the MTA's Emergency Management Center will be activated following the model of the Standardized Emergency Management System. The MTA Emergency Management Council (EMC) will oversee plans for activation of the MTA's emergency response plan. The Council consists of the Office of the CEO, County Counsel, the managing directors of Safety and Security and Risk Management, and the Emergency Operations Center manager. Tom Conner, executive officer, Transit Operations, will be the Incident Commander.

The agency also will have heightened law enforcement and security presence, extra staff in the Bus Operations Control Center and in the Rail Operations Center, ITS programmers and systems managers, additional General Services personnel in the Headquarters building, and extra bus operators and transit operations supervisors. The MTA will coordinate activities with city and county emergency centers.

"I'm confident," says Don Stiner, Y2K project manager. "We don't see anything that would cause a major disruption." His staff and others throughout the agency have worked for months to ensure that mission-critical systems are Y2K compliant.

### **Double the owl service**

On New Year's Eve, Transit Operations will add 81 buses - double the normal owl service - for patrons attending millennium events. The buses also could be used as bus bridges in the unlikely event of a disruption in rail service.

Free Metro Bus service will begin at 11 a.m., Friday, and continue until 5 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1. Free Metro Rail service also begins at 11 a.m., Friday, and will continue until at least 2 a.m., Saturday.

Other New Year's security measures include:

- Restricting entrance to MTA Headquarters to employees and others whose names are included on a special duty roster.
- A ban on automobile traffic on Patsaouras Plaza from noon, Friday, until noon, Monday, Jan. 3.
- Stationing rail transit operations supervisors at rail stations to manually operate the system, if required.
- Positioning the Mobile Emergency Center at Headquarters in the event of problems in the operations dispatch centers.

### **Soup, sandwiches and coffee**

For those on overnight duty at Headquarters New Year's Eve, life will be spare. The cafeteria will offer a limited menu of soup, sandwiches, coffee and soft drinks. Staff parking will be limited to the P-4 level in order to reserve levels P-1, P-2 and P-3 for the public. Staff should enter through the Cesar Chavez entrance and be prepared to show the identification badge.

For the rest of us, Y2K Project Manager Stiner says only, "Power down your computer when you leave work on Thursday. And don't panic. If the lights go out at your house, it'll be because someone hit a power pole...not because of a Y2K problem."

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