

Picketer Struck, Injured by Hit-and-Run Auto

(Oct. 16) The captain of the picket line outside MTA Headquarters was injured about 10:14 a.m., Monday, when he was struck by a driver who was exiting the parking structure on Vignes Street.

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The picket captain, Thomas Impliazzo, 50, a Division 8 operator, was transported to County-USC Medical Center complaining of neck pain, but the injury was not thought to be life-threatening.

"Our concern at this time is with the employee and his family, and with the safety of all of our employees," said CEO Julian Burke.

Witnesses said a female driver - identified by police as Donna Burton, age 35 to 40 - had earlier entered the building and allegedly had words with those on the picket line.

Two picketers struck

When Burton, who apparently came to the MTA to fill out a job application, later exited the building, witnesses said her car struck two picketers, bumping one off to the side and carrying the other on the car hood for a short distance.

Police said the car then ran a red light at the intersection of Vignes and Ramirez and headed onto the freeway. An MTA Security officer pursued the car as it sped west, keeping in radio contact with the LAPD.

The car continued as far as the Westlake area where the woman stopped. An LAPD Rampart Division officer arrested Burton. She was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, vehicle, and transported to the 77th Street jail.

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