

Passengers Evacuated When Subway Stalls Under Santa Monica Mountains

(Nov. 7) About 100 Metro Red Line passengers were safely evacuated from a train that stalled, at 7:05 a.m., today, in the northbound tunnel between Hollywood/Highland and Universal City. No one was injured.

Consistent with training procedures and rail operations policy, the operator and a rail supervisor escorted the passengers along the tunnel catwalk to a nearby cross-passage where a special train dispatched on the southbound tracks from the Valley stations took them on board.

The train then backtracked and transported the passengers to their destinations after a 20- to 25-minute delay.

"There was never any danger to the passengers, although it was inconvenient," said Ralph de la Cruz, deputy executive officer, Rail Operations. "None of the passengers experienced any problems making the transfer."

Tried to troubleshoot car

Before disembarking the passengers, the operator and rail supervisor attempted to troubleshoot the car but were unable to restart it.

Northbound service out of Hollywood/Highland was restored at 9:05 a.m. In the meantime, Rail Operations Control single-tracked trains through the southbound tunnel. Bus Operations set up a bus bridge between the Hollywood/Vine and Universal City stations.

The tracks at the point where the disabled train came to a halt are some 875 feet beneath the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains. Because there is no ventilation shaft for that 3.5-mile stretch of tracks, fire-life safety regulations for a single-ventilation zone permit only one train on each track at a time.

Officials from Rail Operations, the MTA's Office of Systems Safety and Security and the LA City Fire Department are reviewing the incident.

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