

		
<b>Search:</b> Members of Sheriff's Dept. Bomb Squad inspect Metro Blue Line train during drill scenario.	<b>Discover:</b> Replica of an exploding device was found in a paper bag tucked under a passenger seat.	<b>Defuse:</b> Asst. Rail Transportation Manager Henry Castaneda, Rail Superintendent Jess Diaz and Systems Safety Manager Abdul Zohbi review x-ray of device with members of Sheriff's Dept. Bomb Squad. PHOTOS BY RICK JAGER

## Quarterly Metro Blue Line Safety Drill is 'Da Bomb'

By RICK JAGER

(April 4) The MTA's Metro Rail and Safety staff conducted their first quarterly drill on the Metro Blue Line, Tuesday morning, as part of their on-going effort to improve safety procedures when dealing with emergency situations.

In Tuesday's drill scenario, a weekday Metro Blue Line train was heading to Los Angeles when a passenger on board the train noticed an individual leaving a suspicious package under a seat and exiting the train.

The train was taken out of service at Washington and Central in Los Angeles where the operator reported a possible explosive device or devices on board.

The entire drill took place in the pocket-track at Washington and Long Beach and did not affect regular revenue operations.

Those participating in the drill included the Metro Rail and Safety staff, the LAPD, LA Sheriff's Department and LA City Fire Department.

The Sheriff's Department was the first responding agency. They dispatched a bomb squad to the location where experts x-rayed the suspicious package and defused the "bomb."

The purpose of the quarterly drill was to test the response of MTA personnel and outside emergency agencies to existing rules and standard operating procedures when responding to a possible bomb situation on board revenue service trains.

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