

Operator Injured by Concrete Chunk Expected Back on Job



Bus Operator
Anthony Henry

By ERIC RAPP

(Feb 5, 2002) A South Bay Division 18 bus operator who was injured by a large chunk of concrete thrown off a freeway overpass is expected to be back at work on Wednesday.

Operator Anthony Henry, 39, suffered a dislocated shoulder and cuts on his face and shoulder when the rock smashed through the windshield of his bus. Three juveniles have been detained in the incident.

It was just after 7 p.m., Sunday, and Henry was on his way back to Division 18 after completing his Line 60 route.

A 2-year veteran of MTA, Henry was driving his empty bus under the Wardlow Road overpass on the 710 freeway, when what he thought was a large rock suddenly hit the windshield.

The "rock" turned out to be about the size of a bowling ball. It smashed through the windshield and headsign and injured the operator. No passengers were on the bus at the time of the incident.

Momentarily disoriented

Although momentarily disoriented, Henry was able to pull over and secure the bus before calling for assistance. Long Beach Fire Department transported him to Long Beach Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released in stable condition later that evening.

According to Division 18 Assistant Manager Cindy Karpman, Henry is expected to return to work on transitional duty as early as Wednesday. The bus was towed to Division 18 for repairs to the windshield and the headsign, both of which sustained major damage.

The California Highway Patrol detained three juveniles, ages 9 to 14, in connection with the Sunday night incident. The CHP reported that the boys were observed wiping rock dust off their hands.

The district attorney's office has not yet decided what charges to file against the juveniles. The boys were released to their parents and are scheduled to appear in family court.

CHP patrols in the area had been increased after several complaints of similar incidents, which may have involved the same three children.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eric Rapp is a Transit Operations correspondent intern assigned to write news articles about employee activities at the operating divisions.

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