

The Metro Gold Line Rail Activation Team is split into two shifts in order to maintain 16 hours of testing per day. Pictured here are, from left, Arnold Johnson, Milton Guthrie, JoAnn Derbigny, Mike Hubler, Lorne Currie, Albert Dominguez, Mike Brown, Ruben Ramirez, Ken Mosinski, Bruce Fitzgerald, Julie Crawford, Ramiro Estavillo



PHOTO BY ROMAN ALARCON

Rail Activation Team Focused on Readying Metro Gold Line

By ADRIENNE FIGUEROA

(March 28, 2003) The Metro Gold Line Rail Activation Team is conducting a series of tests and emergency drills – all in preparation for the Rail Operation Date (ROD), an event that's just a few short months down the track.

"We're doing a lot of drills with emergency teams from fire departments and the police in various cities," says Tom Lingenfield, Rail Fleet Services manager for the Metro Gold Line. "This is because they need to know how our trains work and what they can do in an accident or fire."

The team is split into two shifts in order to maintain 16 hours of testing per day. Many of the tests monitor the automatic train protection and signaling systems and the interlocking signals. These components must work together to prevent accidents by alerting operators to dangers on the track.

The start-up team also is responsible for acquiring and assembling equipment, writing policies, setting up operating procedures and establishing emergency response plans.

"The team is there to ensure the safety of the system," says Roman Alarcon, Metro Gold Line Rail Activation Team manager.

In addition to these duties, the start-up team also has talked with members of the Pasadena community about the construction of the 13.7-mile line.

Should alleviate traffic

Team member Hector Villa, a rail maintenance specialist who just transferred from the Metro Red Line, says the Metro Gold Line promises to alleviate traffic in the area.

"It seems that we're getting positive feedback from the public," says Villa.

At the moment, the team consists of 31 members who have electrical, electronic and mechanical backgrounds. Each member must undergo a 12-week training course before joining the team.

"We're bringing new people on board," Lingenfield said. "Every week, we get one to two new people."

Expansion of the group is expected soon – 13 trainees have recently graduated and nine trainees are in the process of completing the course.

"For the most part, everything is going along well and everyone has a great attitude," Lingenfield said. "They know they have a mission and they're taking care of it."

[Back to Bulletin Board](#)