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San Gabriel Valley managers have taken a safety awareness course as part of the sector's effort to reduce accidents. Pictured left to right are sector staffers Dan Ramirez, Emma Nogales, Scott Boim and Liz Armijo-Holbrook; Devinder Singh and A.J. Jackson of Division 3; Operator Colon Gomez; General Manager Jack Gabig and sector staffers Yvonne Brewer-Smith, Julie Ortiz, and Carl Torres.



PHOTO: BOB BOARDMAN

## Division 9 Transportation Gets 'Outstanding' Three-Peat

- 'Safety Bucks' awarded for safe practices

By SHANTAY IOSIA

(Oct. 15, 2004) San Gabriel Valley Division 9 is dedicated to safety. For the third consecutive month, the division has been recognized as outstanding transportation division and has stepped into the top slot with the least amount of accidents per 100,000 miles.

"When it comes to safety we're all on the same page," says Senior Safety Specialist Scott Boim of the San Gabriel Valley Service Sector staff.

Boim introduced the "Safety Buck" program to Division 9 in July and hopes its success will continue throughout Metro.

The program involves everyone at the division. Each manager, supervisor and staff member is required to ride buses twice a month, giving them an opportunity to recognize exceptional safety behavior with a "Safety Buck."

"Safety Buck" winners receive a "Safety First" vest pin and immediate entry into a monthly drawing for a \$50 gift certificate.

**'Very hard to get'**

"At the end of the month there may be 10-12 people in the drawing," says Boim. "The pins are very hard to get, but when you do, the chances of winning the gift certificate are very good."

In order to accurately identify safety concerns and proper procedures, staff members completed a training session arranged by the operators.

"We're getting people out of the offices and into the buses, which is very important because we're making contact with the drivers," says Boim. "The staff has to feel comfortable approaching an operator with twenty years' experience."

During the ride, positive behavior is noted while improper procedures are identified and relayed to the management team to provide additional training.

Interaction with the staff and operators gives both sides an opportunity to identify other concerns. Boim says the operators share grievances about anything from broken seats, resulting in back pain, or traffic-congested areas that should be avoided.

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