

[Metro.net](#) (web)**Resources**▶ [Safety](#)▶ [Pressroom](#) (web)▶ [CEO Hotline](#)▶ [Metro Projects](#)▶ [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)▶ [Archives](#)▶ [Events Calendar](#)▶ [Research Center/
Library](#)▶ [Metro Cafe](#) (pdf)▶ [Metro Classifieds](#)▶ [Retirement
Round-up](#)**Metro Info**▶ [Strategic Plan](#) (pdf)▶ [Org Chart](#) (pdf)▶ [Policies](#)▶ [Training](#)▶ [Help Desk](#)▶ [Intranet Policy](#)**Need e-Help?**Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357[E-Mail Webmaster](#)

A Sheriff's deputy checks the contents of a suspicious backpack left at the Pershing Square station. Fortunately, the backpack contained only a glove, a book and other personal items.



Suspicious Package a 'Positive Experience' for LASD

- Security goes to full alert at Pershing Square

(Jan. 14, 2005) In the end, it was only a false alarm, but the "suspicious package" discovered, Thursday, at the Pershing Square station provided a realistic exercise for the Transit Services Bureau and the LASD Bomb Squad.

It began just after 3 p.m. when a patron reported an abandoned backpack to fare inspectors patrolling the station platform. Sheriff's deputies responded and evacuated the station. Metro Red Line trains were directed to bypass the station.

The deputies set up a command post in Pershing Square Park. They were soon joined by Metro Red Line Manager Roman Alarcon, Metro Security, LAPD and Downtown Security officers. The Sheriff's Bomb Squad was called to the scene.

At 5:27 p.m., through trains were halted and Bomb Squad officers set off a controlled charge that blew apart the suspicious backpack. Inside: a glove, a book, a Walkman and some clothing.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief, and Metro Rail resumed normal operations for the remainder of the evening rush period.

"This was a positive experience," says Metro Police Chief Capt. Dan Finkelstein. "We have often briefed our Metro partners and our riders to say something if you see something so we can make a decision and take action. Everyone agrees that erring on the side of caution is better than ignoring a situation and taking a chance."

