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Terrorist Attack in London Puts Metro on Alert

- Employees asked to review "Guide to Security" booklet. Extra copies are available in the Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library. See '[Guide to Security](#).'
- Central City Division 1 is evacuated after suspicious package was found on board a bus. See "[Suspicious package](#)"

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(July 7, 2005) The reaction in Los Angeles to this morning's terrorist attack in London was swift as city leaders, law enforcement personnel and transit officials gathered at Parker Center for a 7:30 a.m. news conference called by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

The Mayor noted that no specific threat to the Los Angeles transit system was evident. Following the news conference, the Mayor took reporters and officials on the Metro Red Line for a safety-emphasizing trip to the Hollywood/Highland station.

Shortly after the attack on the London public transportation system, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security raised the terror alert level from yellow to orange for the nation's mass transit systems.

The nearly simultaneous blasts on three subway trains occurred within a half hour of each other, beginning at 8:51 a.m. in London (3:51 a.m. EDT or 12:51 a.m. PDT). The bus blast exploded at 9:47 a.m. (4:47 a.m. EDT or 1:47 a.m. PDT).

Metro activated its Emergency Operations Center at 4 a.m. and continues to operate under heightened alert, said CEO Roger Snoble.

Under the direction of Sheriff Lee Baca, LASD has added uniformed and undercover Sheriff's deputies to patrol the Metro Bus and Metro Rail system. Metro is also coordinating security efforts with LAPD, CHP and other law enforcement agencies.

Additional steps have been taken to enhance security on board trains and buses and at Metro Rail stations, said Snoble. The extra measures include:

- Law enforcement presence on trains and at stations is visibly increased.

Suspicious package incident cleared after forcing evacuation of Central City Division 1...

Following discovery of a suspicious package left on a bus, Sheriff's deputies ordered evacuation of Central City Division and sent for the Bomb Squad. Pull-in buses and layovers were diverted during the investigation. The situation was cleared at approximately 11:30 a.m., with no damage or injuries to Metro property or personnel. Because the situation was resolved so quickly, said Gateway Cities GM Alex Clifford, the afternoon rollout was not delayed nor was service affected.

Sheriff Lee Baca has ordered the Transit Services Bureau to place two deputies on each train. Meanwhile, other Sheriff's stations and other law enforcement agencies will handle emergency calls on the Metro Bus system.

- Bus Operations Control has sent a text message via ATMS to all buses reminding operators to report suspicious persons and packages and to inspect their buses at the end of each run.
- On Metro Rail, VMS messages concerning suspicious persons and packages are running in the rail stations and Metro Rail operators are being asked to make such announcements aboard the trains.
- Other law enforcement agencies will provide additional security at Metro Rail and Metrolink stations outside the jurisdiction of LASD.
- LAPD has assigned a number of canine units to cover the Metro Rail system.
- The fire department will be dispatching trucks and crews to Metro Rail stations over the next two or three days to review Metro facilities and infrastructure.

Commuters are advised to:

- **Be aware** - If something does not look right, inform the train operator, fare inspector, station security guard or law enforcement on the scene.
- **Be informed** – Commuters are reminded to familiarize themselves with the locations of station entrances and exits and train platform phones.
- **Be alert** - Look for suspicious behavior or unattended packages, and report them immediately by calling 1-877-ATHREAT (1-877-284-7328) or 9-1-1.