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EDITOR'S NOTE: (July 21, 2005) London police reported the situation is "under control" following a series of small explosions that struck London during the noon hour, today, hitting three subway trains and a double-decker bus. Only one injury was reported. It was the first such incident in London since the tragic July 7 terrorist attacks that killed 56 people. Meanwhile in Los Angeles, Metro Security and Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau deputies remain on heightened status in compliance with the national Orange Alert. Extra deputies, some with bomb detection dogs, are deployed at train platforms and are sweeping platforms and trains for unattended packages. CEO Roger Snoble wrote the following column on Wednesday, July 20.

Special Report:

See> [Metro Security on High Alert, CEO Tells Board Members](#)

VIEW FROM THE 25th FLOOR

Security Incidents Underscore Need for Employee Vigilance

By CEO ROGER SNOBLE

- Employees can be extra eyes and ears for our security partners



CEO Roger Snoble

Since the terrorist attacks in London, July 7, our Metro system has experienced a rash of security incidents. At this writing, there have been seven, including two suspicious package investigations at the Vermont/Sunset station and a two-hour shutdown of the East Portal.

We live in difficult times. We have come to understand that in order to pursue our way of life and use our transit system freely and securely, we have to be responsible for ourselves, for our fellow employees and for our customers.

For now and into the foreseeable future, our mindset as transit professionals has to be one of constant awareness. In order to maintain a safe environment on our transit system, we must be alert and thinking about safety and security at all times.

Since we have gone on heightened alert, I have been very impressed with the professionalism of our Metro Security officers and with the members of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau. They are well-trained in security procedures. They have been extremely responsive to our requests and to our customers' needs. They're setting a good example for all of us.

Over the past few months, virtually every Metro employee has attended an anti-terrorism training course. The class provided guidelines for helping maintain security in the transit system. Employees also received copies of the pamphlet, "What You Can Do to Help" and a wallet-sized card with emergency phone numbers. Flyers

were posted on bulletin boards throughout the agency.

The 16-page pamphlet has a great number of important security tips you should become familiar with. Several I noticed immediately were:

Look for people who are in an unauthorized or restricted area.

Observe and report people, activities and things that are out-of-place or out of the ordinary.

Notice a package that is left or intentionally placed in an out-of-the-way location where it is not easily seen.

Conduct proper vehicle inspections and include security sweeps in pre- and post-trip inspections.

You also should call the Sheriff's Hot Line at 1-888-950-SAFE (7233) to report suspicious behavior or an unattended item on a train, bus or rail platform.

Recently, a colleague and I were touring the parking garage at the Metro Gold Line's Del Mar station. As we walked along, we spotted a suspicious-looking backpack placed on a low wall. We immediately reported the backpack to the private security guard. And, we were quite relieved when he said, "Oh, that's my lunch!"

That incident turned out to be quite innocent, and even funny. But, security on our Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines is serious business.

As Metro employees, public servants and citizens, we can be valuable assets to our law enforcement and security partners by staying alert and keeping our eyes and ears open whenever we're using the Metro system.

Remember: Your vigilance may one day save lives.

July 21, 2005

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