

[Metro.net](#) (web)

## Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)  
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

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Division 10 Service Attendant Betty Williams had been sitting in her black Saturn only minutes before this Line 304 bus careened into it. She was not injured.



Photos courtesy of Transportation Manager Karl Downs

## Path of Destruction

### Employee Held on \$1 Mill. Bail in Division 10 Incident

- Five buses, 15 private vehicles, 3 Metro vehicles involved
- Damage estimated at \$100,000 or more

(July 14, 2006) A Metro employee is being held on \$1 million bail, accused of causing damages conservatively estimated at \$100,000 or more to five buses and 18 other vehicles during a Thursday afternoon incident that created a path of destruction at Gateway Division 10.

Sheriff's deputies booked Jose Martinez, 47, an electronic communications technician, at the Twin Towers Jail and charged him with felony vandalism and taking a vehicle without the owner's permission.

### On the path



This Metro Liner sustained heavy damage to the rear passenger door and to the articulated joint in Thursday's incident. Below, Bus No. 6318, the first commandeered at Division 10 Thursday afternoon, smashed into another Metro Liner before hitting this Metro Liner and coming to a halt.

Martinez, who had been placed on administrative suspension and was awaiting a disciplinary hearing, allegedly commandeered a 40-foot bus in the Division 10 yard at about 12:40 p.m. and smashed it into the center of a 60-foot Metro Liner, damaging the rear door and articulated joint.

The bus continued forward, striking the right rear of a second Metro Liner.

Leaving the first bus resting against the Metro Liner, Martinez then allegedly took control of a second 40-foot bus and drove around the division's employee parking lots, striking one private vehicle or Metro vehicle after another before ramming a final car and jamming the bus between the car and another 40-foot bus.

When the incident began, the Division 10 buses were lined up in the yard with their engines running in preparation for the afternoon rollout. A total of five buses, 15 private vehicles and three Metro vehicles – some heavily damaged – were involved in the incident, according to a report by the Bus Operations Center.

Eventually, two Division 10 employees were able to approach Martinez and get him off the bus. He was arrested by Sheriff's deputies who took him to County-USC Hospital for evaluation, and then to the Twin Towers Jail for booking.

No other employees were injured during the incident, which slightly delayed Division 10's rollout, but buses from other divisions filled in and there was no impact on afternoon service.

A native of San Antonio, Tex., who lives in Long Beach, Martinez joined Metro in August 2001.



**A jumble of steel:** A total of 15 employees' cars and three Metro vehicles were pushed together and damaged in the wake of Thursday afternoon's incident at Division 10.





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