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UPDATE: Mercury Spill Suspect in Custody

Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau detectives today took into custody a man suspected of spilling mercury at the Pershing Square station. The man is being held for questioning in the Dec. 22 incident. Two warrants already had been issued for the man in unrelated drug cases, according to Transit Police Chief Cmdr. Dan Finkelstein.

HazMat Training Begins for Rail Staff in Wake of Mercury Incident

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Jan. 23, 2007) Hazardous materials recognition and response training for Metro Rail personnel began Monday in the wake of last week's concern about a Dec. 22 mercury spill at the Pershing Square station.

The first classes were held with surveillance TV observers and transportation operations supervisors at the Rail Operations Center. The classes will continue until all Metro Rail employees and Facilities Maintenance personnel who maintain the rail system are trained, according to Transit Police Chief Cmdr. Dan Finkelstein.

A one-hour training session provided by the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, according to Lt. Holly Perez, concentrates on hazardous materials recognition and reaction.

Beginning Wednesday, Metro will provide a two-and-a-hour refresher training course focusing on the agency's existing hazardous materials response plan. The classes will meet several times a week and will include lectures and PowerPoint presentations covering how frontline personnel should react in emergency situations.

"I feel really good about what we're doing and how we're going to train every body," said Michelle Brown, Metro Green Line transportation manager and training course coordinator. "We're very serious about this."

