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## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

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**Help stop vandalism.**

Reporting taggers is safe and anonymous.  
And we prosecute vandals aggressively.

**What should I do?**

- > Note vandal's description
  - Clothing, hair color, any identifiable features
- > Observe bus or rail identification numbers
  - Numbers are posted inside buses at the front and at both ends of rail cars
- > Check the time and location
- > Call when safely away from danger
  - Wait for the vandal to leave

**Why?**

- > Your report matters. Speedy response to vandalism reduces the frequency of the next act
- > Ignoring vandalism has been found to promote an increase in crime
- > It costs \$5 million a year to repair vandalism damages on Metro buses and trains - money that could be used to provide more service

**What's in it for me?**

- > Your right to a vandalism-free transit system
- > Improved safety for your family, friends and neighbors who depend on public transportation

SEEK THIS HANDY CARD WITH YOU

**Report vandalism safely and anonymously**

**Call 1.888.950.7233**

**M Metro**

Handy reference: Wallet-size card detaches from brochure, which is printed on either side in English and in Spanish.

## Metro appeals to riders to help stop vandalism

By Michael D. White  
Staff Writer

(April 16, 2009) In an ongoing effort to maintain a safe and secure transit experience for its riders, Metro has launched a campaign to encourage anonymous reporting of vandalism to its equipment and property.

As part of the anti-vandalism effort, Metro is using posters and brochures onboard bus and trains to alert riders of how to deal effectively with both security and vandalism scenarios.

"We're reaching out to our riders to get their help in making the Metro experience as safe and enjoyable as it can possibly be," said Robin O'Hara, Metro account executive and project manager for the new campaign.

Appearing on the English/Spanish materials are a telephone contact number for a rider to anonymously report vandalism incidents such as tagging and etching, illegal or suspicious behavior, persons in unauthorized areas or unattended packages. The brochures have a perforated, detachable Metro Security Alert card with the appropriate telephone numbers prominently displayed to reach Metro or Los Angeles County Sheriff's personnel.

The key is not intervention, it's taking the appropriate action, said O'Hara. "We're encouraging people not to endanger themselves, but to use the special hotline to contact Metro Security or the Sheriff's Department to alert them to the incident and let them do their job."

In years past, vandalism alone - mainly painted graffiti and etching on buses and trains - has cost Metro millions of dollars in clean-up and maintenance costs.

metro.net

## Ayude a parar el vandalismo.

Reportar grafiteros es seguro y anónimo.  
Y procesaremos a los vándalos agresivamente.

**¿Qué debo hacer?**

- > Note la descripción del vándalo
  - Ropa, color de cabello, cualquier rasgo que lo identifique
- > Observe los números de identificación de autobuses y trenes
  - Los números están adentro y al frente de los autobuses y en ambas orillas de los vagones
- > Fíjese en la hora y el lugar
- > Espere a que el vándalo se haya ido para reportarlo

**¿Por qué?**

- > Su informe importa. Acción contra el vandalismo hace que los actos de vandalismo se repitan con menos frecuencia
- > Se ha demostrado que ignorar el vandalismo promueve un aumento del crimen
- > Reparar los daños del vandalismo en los autobuses y trenes de Metro cuesta \$5 millones por año, dinero que se podría usar para brindar más servicio

**¿En qué me beneficia esto?**

- > Su derecho a un sistema de transporte sin vandalismo
- > Más seguridad para su familia, amigos y vecinos, quienes dependen del transporte público

MANTENGA ESTA TARJETA CON USTEDES

Reporte el vandalismo de manera segura y anónima

Llame al 1.888.950.7233

Metro

But the cost is high for the taggers as well. Laws now on the books call for individuals with prior arrests who commit acts of vandalism amounting to \$400 or more, to be charged with a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

One such culprit was a tagger known on the street as the "Dubsr."

In 2007, the "street artist's" inability to control his urge to express himself on Metro Rapid buses on 19 separate occasions cost the agency almost \$50,000 to repair. But it came at a much higher price for him. Previously convicted

of two counts of felony vandalism to Metro property, the "Dubsr" is now serving a sentence of 23 years in prison.

The previous year, 17 cases of felony graffiti vandalism on Metro buses and trains that cost Metro more than \$31,000 in damages, guaranteed another tagger – "Gloer" – a four year-four month stay as a guest of the California state corrections system.

The new campaign "not only sends a message to our riders, but to the taggers as well," said O'Hara. "It will go a long way in giving our riders an opportunity to claim ownership of their transit system. And, at the same time, send the message to potential taggers that we're not letting our guard down."