



NEWS

CONTACT: BILL HEARD/RICK JAGER
MTA Media Relations
(213) 244-7047, (213) 972-6111 (after hours)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTA STATEMENT

The MTA has requested that the Los Angeles Police Department close Hollywood Boulevard between Wilcox and Whitley until 8 a.m., Sunday, as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the public. The street closure will permit the MTA's Metro Red Line construction contractor to complete installation of additional bracing in the Number One (north-side) subway tunnel.

The LAPD has established a detour from Vine Street to Highland Avenue

The action was taken when construction workers noted an increase in the influx of water into the tunnel from an unknown source. The addition of vertical and horizontal braces in the tunnel beneath the intersection of Hudson Avenue will provide an additional measure of safety. The DWP water department has shut off the 16-inch water main that runs beneath Hollywood Boulevard between Wilcox and Whitley.

There have been no injuries to either construction workers or the public. The MTA is working to maintain the safest possible conditions for workers, the public and businesses in the affected area of Hollywood Boulevard.

Metro Rail construction crews are drilling holes in preparation for the pumping of concrete grouting from street level into the subsurface soils as an additional safety measure at the intersection of Hudson and Hollywood Boulevard. Engineers continue around-the-clock monitoring of surface elevations and tunnel circumferences for any signs of further subsidence. Engineers are using optical devices to monitor subsidence and locate any voids if they should occur.

(MORE)

In the meantime, the LA Department of Building and Safety has ordered some 45 persons occupying the Hill View Apartments at 6531 Hollywood Boulevard to evacuate the building. The MTA will provide lodging for the residents at nearby hotels. The Red Cross also has been asked to assist. The apartment building, built in 1917, was heavily damaged in the January 17 earthquake and is located in the settlement zone. The front portion of the building was red-tagged on Thursday by city inspectors, based on questions about its structural integrity.

City inspectors also ordered this afternoon the closure of shops on the east side of the Janes House shopping mall, a group of businesses immediately adjacent to the Hill View Apartment building.

#