



NEWS

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MTA CALLS UPON PANEL OF EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE THE RUPTURE OF A TANK ON BOARD A COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUS

The MTA has called upon a panel of transportation experts to investigate what caused a compressed natural gas (CNG) tank on board an MTA bus to rupture during refueling last night.

The panel consists of representatives from both the bus and tank manufacturers, along with MTA Equipment Engineering and the Southern California Gas Company.

"We believe that the incident that occurred last night at Division 15 in Sun Valley is an isolated one, but nonetheless, we are continuing our investigation to ensure that our buses are safe to operate," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Joseph E. Drew.

MTA presently operates a fleet of approximately 120 CNG fueled buses with fueling stations at MTA's Division 8 in Chatsworth, Division 15 in Sun Valley and Division 10 in East Los Angeles.

The incident occurred at 6:45 p.m. last night at the Authority's Division 15 in Sun Valley. One CNG bus was in the process of being refueled when a tank underneath the bus ruptured. There was no fire, and no injuries reported.

The bus, manufactured by Neoplan USA of Lamar, Colorado, is still under warranty and the exact cause of the rupture is under investigation.

Drew noted that MTA has operated its CNG fleet without mishap for more than 4.5 million miles, and that the manufacturer of the CNG tanks, EDO Canada Ltd. of Calgary, Canada has installed some 6,000 tanks nationwide with no reports of failure.

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MTA-171