



NEWS

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MTA TEMPORARILY SIDELINES 120 COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS BUSES

The MTA has temporarily sidelined 120 compressed natural gas buses pending pressure tests to ensure the safety of fuel tanks beneath the buses.

"While the manufacturer has assured us that no similar incidents have occurred with any of the 6,000 tanks it has produced nationwide, we are conducting a rigorous inspection to ensure the safety of our passengers, operators, and mechanics," said Joseph E. Drew, the MTA's CEO.

Drew said that each of the 12 compressed natural gas tanks carried on board each bus of the natural gas fleet will be both visually inspected and pressure tested before they go back into service. He said that the tests were expected to be completed during September.

The CEO said of the 120 buses, MTA operations staff was able to backfill all but 38 buses in service this morning. He added that MTA is working to reschedule equipment in an effort to make sure as many work assignments are filled as possible.

"We know that some of our customers will be inconvenienced, but we decided yesterday we should keep these buses out of service pending additional tests to make sure that they are absolutely safe," Drew said.

The MTA operates the natural gas bus fleet from three divisions, two in the San Fernando Valley and one in downtown Los Angeles.

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