



**WMSC Commissioner Brief: W-0170 – Serious Injury – L’Enfant Plaza Station – February 26, 2022**

*Prepared for Washington Metrorail Safety Commission meeting on June 28, 2022*

**Safety event summary:**

A juvenile fell from an escalator after attempting to improperly ride the unit from the upper level to the lower-level platform at L’Enfant Plaza and sustained serious injuries requiring medical transport to a hospital.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) captured four juveniles horseplaying on the upper-level platform at L’Enfant Plaza Station after exiting a Green Line train as they made their way to Escalator #9. After getting on the descending escalator, one of the juveniles sat on the handrail and began to ride it down before falling backward off the unit and onto the lower-level platform. An MTPD officer who was on the platform at the time of the event administered aid and requested medical assistance. District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Service (DCFEMS) arrived and transported the juvenile to a local hospital to be treated for a right arm fracture.

Escalator #9 was removed from service following the event for post-incident inspection by the Office of Elevators and Escalators (ELES). The inspection determined that there were no defects to the unit that could have contributed to the event.

**Probable Cause:**

The probable cause of this serious injury event is the improper use of the escalator by the juvenile.

**Corrective Actions:**

Metrorail took no specific corrective action related to this event.

**WMSC staff observations:**

Metrorail has signs and periodic automated announcements warning against the improper use of escalators.



Washington Metro Area Transit Authority  
Department of Safety and Environmental  
Management (SAFE)  
**FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION A&I – E22128**

<b>Date of Event:</b>	02/26/22
<b>Type of Event:</b>	A-2: Serious Injury
<b>Incident Time:</b>	17:19 hours
<b>Location:</b>	L'Enfant Plaza Station – Mezzanine 56, Escalator #9
<b>Time and How received by SAFE:</b>	17:19 hours Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC)
<b>WMSC Notification Time:</b>	18:23 hours
<b>Responding Safety Officers:</b>	WMATA SAFE: No WMSC: No Other: N/A
<b>Rail Vehicle:</b>	N/A
<b>Injuries:</b>	Yes
<b>Damage:</b>	N/A
<b>Emergency Responders:</b>	District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS), Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD)
<b>SMS I/A Number</b>	20220226#98668MX

L'Enfant Plaza Station – Serious Injury

February 26, 2022

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>ARS</b>	Audio Recording System
<b>CAP</b>	Corrective Action Plan
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed Circuit Television
<b>DCFEMS</b>	District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services
<b>ELES</b>	Office of Elevators and Escalators
<b>MSRPH</b>	Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook
<b>MTPD</b>	Metro Transit Police Department
<b>NOAA</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
<b>RTRA</b>	Office of Rail Transportation
<b>ROCC</b>	Rail Operations Control Center
<b>SAFE</b>	Department of Safety
<b>SMS</b>	Safety Measurement System
<b>WMATA</b>	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
<b>WMSC</b>	Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

### **Executive Summary**

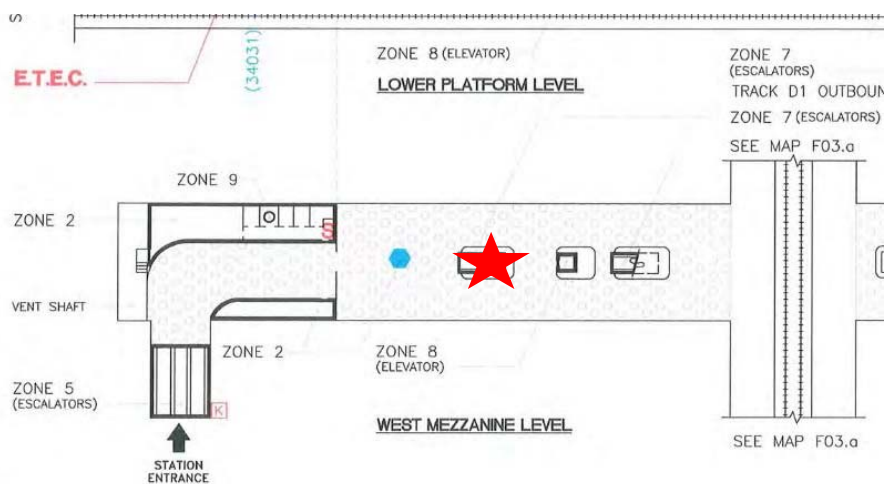
On Saturday, February 26, 2022, at approximately 17:17 hours, Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) captured four juvenile males alighting from outbound Green Line Train ID 503 at L'Enfant Plaza Station. CCTV then captured the four juveniles walking towards Escalator #9 to go to the lower level of L'Enfant Plaza Station. A juvenile wearing a white jacket with an orange hoodie proceeded to sit on and ride the descending escalator handrail to the lower level. While descending, the juvenile fell backwards and injured their right arm. A Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) Officer was on the lower-level platform when the juvenile fell from the escalator. The MTPD Officer immediately went to aid the juvenile. At approximately 17:20 hours, several other MTPD Officers arrived on scene to assist the first officer with the injured juvenile. At approximately 17:24 hours, a MTPD Officer deployed a yellow blockade gate to create a perimeter around the injured juvenile. At approximately 17:34 hours, District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) Medic #10 arrived on scene and started providing medical assistance. The juvenile was transported to a local hospital to have their injury treated. Escalator #9 was placed out of service because of this event. The Office of Elevators and Escalators (ELES) conducted a post-incident inspection of Escalator #9 and did not discover any defects that would have contributed to this serious injury event.

The probable cause of this Serious Injury event was the improper use of an escalator that resulted in the juvenile seriously injuring themselves. The juvenile rode the escalator in a manner that the equipment was not designed for, resulting in them falling backwards and fracturing their arm. Responding personnel provided first aid and dispatched emergency services in an expedient manner.

### **Incident Site**

L'Enfant Plaza Station, Escalator # 9, Mezzanine 56, Lower Level

## Field Sketch/Schematics



*\*This image shows the approximate location of the customer when they fell off escalator # 9.*

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this accident investigation and candid self-evaluation is to collect and analyze available facts, determine the probable cause(s) of the incident, identify contributing factors, and make recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

## Investigative Methods

The investigative methodologies included the following:

- Site Assessment through document review
- Informal Interviews – Collected through conversations with individuals during the investigation to provide background and supporting information.
- Documentation Review – A collection of relevant work history information and process documentation contained in Metro systems of record. These records include:
  - MTPD Incident Report
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data
  - ELES Post Incident Inspection Report
- System Data Recording Review – A collection of information contained in Metro Data Recording Systems. This data includes:
  - Audio Recording System (ARS) playback include RCOM-Asst. Sup-12057, RCOM-Asst. Sup- 12058, RCOM2-2(12054)
  - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

## Investigation

On Saturday, February 26, 2022 at approximately 17:17 hours, CCTV captured four juvenile males alighting outbound Green Line Train ID 503 at L'Enfant Plaza Station. As the Train Operator was closing the doors, the juvenile with a white jacket and orange hoodie stuck their hand in the middle of the door causing the Train Operator to recycle the doors. The group of juveniles continued to horseplay (e.g., pushing each other) and tamper with the train while it was servicing the station. As Train ID 503 was exiting the station, the juvenile in the white jacket and orange hoodie and another juvenile ran up to touch or hit the train. CCTV captured the four juveniles walking towards Escalator #9 to go to the lower level of L'Enfant Plaza Station. The juvenile wearing a white jacket with an orange hoodie proceeded to ride the descending escalator rail down to the lower level. As a result, the juvenile fell backwards and injured their right arm. A MTPD Officer was on the lower-level platform when the juvenile fell from the escalator. The MTPD Officer immediately went to aid the juvenile. At approximately 17:20 hours, several other MTPD Officers arrived on scene to assist the first officer with the injured juvenile. At approximately 17:24 hours, a MTPD Officer deployed a yellow blockade gate to create a perimeter around the injured juvenile. At approximately 17:34 hours, DCFEMS Medic #10 arrived on scene and started providing medical assistance. The juvenile was transported to a local hospital to have their injury treated. Escalator #6 was placed out of service as a result of this event. ELES conducted a post incident inspection of Escalator #9 and did not discover any defects that would have contributed to this serious injury event. ELES was current with the preventative maintenance on Escalator #9 and there were no open work orders for any defect at the time of the incident.

## **Chronological Event Timeline**

A review of ARS playback, i.e., phone and radio communications, revealed the following timeline:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
17:17 hours	Four juveniles alighted an outbound Green Line train, Train ID 503 at L'Enfant Plaza Station. As the Train Operator was closing the doors, one of the four juveniles stuck their hand in the door causing the Train Operator to recycle the doors. [CCTV]
17:19 hours	A juvenile was riding the descending rail of Escalator #9 when they fell backwards on to the platform. A MTPD Officer was on the platform when the juvenile fell and provided aid. [CCTV]
17:22 hours	<u>ROIC Information Manager</u> : Received a call from ROCC Operations Manager informing them there was a report that a customer fell from the mezzanine level to the platform on the C-line at L'Enfant Plaza Station [RCOM-Asst. Sup-12057]
17:23 hours	<u>ROIC Information Manager #2</u> : Contacted the Station Manager at L'Enfant Plaza Station to inquire about the customer falling at the station. The Station Manager was unaware of the incident but was going to check and report back to the ROIC. [RCOM-Asst. Sup- 12058]
17:24 hours	<u>ROIC Information Manager</u> : Informed the ROCC Operations Manager that they contacted the Station Manager at L'Enfant Plaza Station and they would provide details shortly. [RCOM-Asst. Sup- 12058]
17:24 hours	A MTPD Officer deployed a yellow blockade gate to create a perimeter around the injured juvenile. [CCTV]
17:28 hours	A Station Manager arrived on scene. [CCTV]

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
17:29 hours	<u>MTPD Dispatcher</u> : Advised the Information Controller that medics were en route to L'Enfant Plaza Station for an individual that possibly fell from an escalator and broke their arm. [RCOM2-2-(12054)]
17:30 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted MTPD Dispatcher to ask for the specific entrance closest to the incident. The MTPD Dispatcher responded 9 <sup>th</sup> & D St. [RCOM2-2-(12054)]
17:31hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted the L'Enfant Station Manager at the 9 <sup>th</sup> & D St. entrance to advise them that MTPD was there because a passenger was injured. The Station Manager informed them that the other Station Manager said the passenger was sliding on the escalator and fell. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
17:32 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted ROIC Information Manager to advise that the customer was sliding down the escalator when they fell and injured themselves in Mezzanine 56. They stated they would provide more information once the Station Manager provided an update. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
17:33 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Notified an Ops 2 RTC that medics were headed to L'Enfant Plaza Mezzanine 56 for a young customer that injured themselves. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
17:34 hours	DCFEMS arrived on scene to provide medical aid. [CCTV]
17:35 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted ELES Desk to inform them of the situation at L'Enfant Plaza Station with the passenger sliding down the railing and falling. [RCOM2-2 (12054)]
17:40 hours	<u>Mezzanine 57 Station Manager</u> : Contacted the Information Controller to inform them that MTPD was treating the incident like a crime scene and would not let anyone near. Also, advised that the other Station Manager would provide an update. [RCOM2-2 (12054)]
17:53 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted MOC Desk to request custodial services at L'Enfant Plaza Station, Lower Level, in case there were any bodily fluids from the customer falling. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
17:55 hours	Injured juvenile transported to local hospital. [CCTV]
17:59 hours	<u>RTRA Supervisor</u> : Contacted the Information Controller to inform them that the first MTPD Officer on scene was at 17:19, Medic #10 arrived at 17:34, EMS #1 arrived at 17:51, they arrived at 17:26 and transported at 17:55. The escalator was going down when the customer fell injuring their right arm. Also, informed them that the escalator was still running. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
18:04 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted ELES Desk to provide an update. Informed them the customer fell from escalator #9. ELES advised the escalator should be out of service. [RCOM2-2(12054)]
18:05 hours	<u>Information Controller</u> : Contacted the Station Manager at Mezzanine 56 and advised them that escalator #9 should be taken out of service. Provided failure number 16903330. [RCOM2-2(12054)]

*\*\*Note: Times above may vary from other system's timelines based on clock settings.*



## ROCS Spot Report

Select Platform:  and/or Select ID:  Leave blank to remove criteria  
 and/or Select 4-digit car number:  Leave blank to remove criteria  
 Select Date:    Select Times (0-24HRS): From  To

ID	Platform	length	dcode	Right door open	Right door close	dwll	Left door open	Left door close	dwll	Head Arrived	Tail cleared	cars	Headway door open to door open
304	F03-2	0	31							17:00:21	17:01:45	3260-3261.3275-3274.3087-3086	-
503	F03-2	6	43	17:17:14	17:18:08	54				17:16:40	17:18:29	3188-3189.3128-3129.3280-3281	-
301	F03-2	6	27	17:26:21	17:30:03	222				17:25:47	17:30:25	6145-6144.6067-6066.6060-6061	9:07
504	F03-2	6	43	17:32:52	17:33:21	29				17:32:09	17:33:43	2030-2031.3073-3072.3164-3165	6:31
550	F03-2	8	42	17:42:39	17:46:55	256				17:42:08	17:47:15	unknown	9:47
302	F03-2	6	27	17:55:34	17:55:58	24				17:55:02	17:56:40	2022-2023.2046-2047.3079-3078	12:55
505	F03-2	6	43	17:59:14	17:59:37	23				17:58:41	17:59:57	3249-3248.3241-3240.3203-3202	3:40

\*This image shows the Train ID that the injured juvenile alighted from at L'Enfant Plaza Station.

## Weather

On February 26, 2022, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as 44° F, with clear skies throughout the evening. Weather was not a contributing factor in this incident. This injury occurred indoors in a climate-controlled environment. (Weather source: NOAA) – Location: Washington, DC.

## Findings

- The juveniles were playing around on the platform when they alighted Train ID 503.
- One juvenile attempted to slide down the rail of Escalator # 9 and fell backwards fracturing their arm.
- There were no mechanical issues with Escalator #9.
- There was a MTPD officer on the platform at the time of this event. The officer was able to provide immediate assistance.

## Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence

- Escalator #9 was placed out of service.

## Probable Cause Statement

The probable cause of this Serious Injury event was the improper use of an escalator that resulted in the juvenile seriously injuring themselves. The juvenile rode the escalator in a manner that the equipment was not designed for, resulting in them falling backwards and fracturing their arm. Responding personnel provided first aid and dispatched emergency services in an expedient manner.

# Appendices

## Appendix A – ELES Post Incident Inspection



District of Columbia



### CHECKLIST FOR INSPECTION OF ESCALATORS

GENERAL NOTES:  
 (a) See ASME A17.2 for detailed inspection information on each item number.  
 (b) OK = meets requirements; NG = insert number to identify comment on back of this Checklist; NA = not applicable.

Building Address: 9th and d street, S.W  
 City, Zip code: Washington, D.C. 20024  
 D Number: D03W09 Esc Maximo # 16903330  
 Code Year: A17.1-2000 w/ 2002 Addenda  
 Station: L'Enfant Plaza  
 Number of Steps: 74

Inspection Date: 2/27/2022  
 Inspector Name: [REDACTED]  
 QEI #/Certification: C#4679  
 Type Of Inspection: Accident

Requirement/Inspection Area	OK	NG	N/A
<b>7 Escalator - External</b>			
7.1 General Fire prevention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.2 Geometry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.3 Handrails	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.4 Entrance and Egress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.5 Lighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.6 Caution Signs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.7 Combplate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.8 Deck Barricades	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.9 Steps and Upthrust device	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.10 Operating devices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.11 Skirt obstruction devices	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.12 Handrail-speed monitoring device	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.13 Rolling Shutter device	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.14 Speed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.15 Balustrades	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.16 Ceiling Intersection guards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.17 Step / Skirt clearance panels and index	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.18 Outdoor Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Requirement/Inspection Area	OK	NG	N/A
<b>8 Escalator - Internal</b>			
8.1 Machinery space access & lighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.2 Stop Switch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.3 Controller and wiring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.4 Drive Machine And Brake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.5 Speed Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.6 Broken Drive Chn / Disc Mtr dev Broken Drive Chain/Mtr Disconnect Sw.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.7 Reversal Stop Switch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.8 Broken Step Chain switch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.9 Step Upthrust Device	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.10 Missing Step Device	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.11 Step Level Device	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.12 Steps, Step Chains & Trusses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.13 Handrails	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.14 Code Data Plate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.15 Response to Smoke / Heat Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments 9/5/2021

**Accident Report**

On 02-26-22 at 6 pm ROIC ADVISED A MALE PATRON SLIDE DOWN THE HANDRAIL AND INJURED HIMSELF. CURRENTLY ATTENDING TO THE PATRON WHILE AWAITING MEDICS. SUPERVISOR [REDACTED] NOTIFIED. HE WILL SEND A TECHNICIAN TO RESPOND. UPDATE TO FOLLOW ELES TECH [REDACTED] RESPONDED. HE ADVISED INCIDENT OCCURRED ON ESCALATOR #9. UNIT OOS AWAITING INSPECTION

**ACCIDENT INSPECTION REPORT:**

At the time of inspection the escalator was OOS.  
 On inspection could not determine any escalator factor attributable to this incident. No deficiency noted

SIGNATURE

