



**WMSC Commissioner Brief: W-0214 – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons – Metro Center Station – December 7, 2022**

*Prepared for Washington Metrorail Safety Commission meeting on April 11, 2023*

**Safety event summary:**

Metro Center Station was evacuated due to a shooting inside the station on December 7, 2022. A Train Operator operating on the Red Line in the direction of Glenmont heard gunshots when entering the station and kept the train moving through the station without servicing the station's platform.

A Station Manager reported the shooting via radio to the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) Radio Rail Traffic Controller, requested Metro Transit Police Department assistance, and reported that trains should not service the station. Riders evacuated the station after hearing the shooting. The MTPD ROCC Liaison notified MTPD of the reported shooting.

An Office of Rail Transportation (RTRA) Supervisor at Metro Center notified the Radio Rail Traffic Controller that they located an injured person behind the parapet wall on the Track 1 side of the platform. The Rail supervisor advised the ROCC that MTPD was on the scene and incident command was established. The Radio Controller informed Train Operators on Radio Ops 1 of the incident and instructed Red Line Trains to turn back at Judiciary Square and Farragut North stations. Train service was also suspended on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines on the lower level with those trains bypassing the station.

The Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC) contacted the MTPD Dispatcher to determine if service should be suspended on the Red Line at Metro Center or if trains could single-track through the station. MTPD authorized single tracking on the Red Line via Track 2 and normal service on the Blue, Orange and Silver lines on the lower level of the station. Metro Center is a transfer station serviced by four lines, the Red Line on the upper level and the Orange, Blue and Silver lines on the lower level. Track 1 on the upper level remained out of service until the investigation into the event concluded and all personnel cleared the roadway.

The person shot was killed. The other individual involved in the altercation was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

**Probable Cause:**

The probable cause of this evacuation for life safety reasons was a shooting in the station.

**Corrective Actions:**

Metrorail installed temporary protective features to reduce the risk of falling over parapet walls, which have also been in development to reduce the risk of trash buildup. Metrorail is evaluating design changes and duration.



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
Department of Safety (SAFE)  
Office of Safety Investigations (OSI)  
**FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION A&I E22795**

<b>Date of Event:</b>	12/07/2022
<b>Type of Event:</b>	A-4: Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons
<b>Incident Time:</b>	18:21 hours
<b>Location:</b>	Metro Center Station, Red Line Platform
<b>Time and How received by SAFE:</b>	18:25 hours - Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC)
<b>WMSC Notification Time:</b>	19:23 hours
<b>Responding Safety Officers:</b>	OEP
<b>Rail Vehicle:</b>	N/A
<b>Injuries:</b>	One fatality, One Injured
<b>Damage:</b>	N/A
<b>Emergency Responders:</b>	MTPD, DCFEMS, FBI, MPD, DC OCME
<b>SMS I/A Number</b>	20221214#104866

# Metro Center Station – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons

December 07, 2022  
Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms-----	3
Executive Summary -----	4
Incident Site -----	4
Field Sketch/Schematics -----	5
Purpose and Scope -----	5
Investigative Methods-----	5
Investigation-----	6
Chronological Event Timeline-----	6
Weather -----	7
Findings -----	7
Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence -----	8
Probable Cause Statement-----	8

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

<b>ARS</b>	Audio Recording System
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed-Circuit Television
<b>MAC</b>	Mission Assurance Coordinator
<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>RTC</b>	Rail Traffic Controller
<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

### **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

Incident Date: 12/07/2022      Time: 18:21 hours  
Final Report – A-4: Evacuation for Life Safety  
Reasons  
E22795

Drafted By: SAFE 703 02/02/2023
Reviewed By: SAFE 704 02/04/2023
Approved By: SAFE 71 – 02/06/2023

Page 3

**Executive Summary**

*\*Note that all times listed are approximate and may contain minor variations due to differences between systems of record\**

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 18:21 hours, as Train ID 111 was entering Metro Center Station, there was gunfire. The Train Operator observed the situation, bypassed Metro Center Station and continued to Gallery Place Station. Moments after Train ID 111 bypassed Metro Center Station, a Station Manager contacted the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) Radio Rail Traffic Controller (RTC) to report there was a shooting and requested Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) to respond. Customers began to self-evacuate from the station at the outset of the event. At 18:22 hours, the ROCC Liaison contacted MTPD to inform them there was a reported shooting at Metro Center Station.

At 18:23 hours, an Office of Rail Transportation (RTRA) Rail Supervisor at Metro Center Station informed the Radio RTC that they were investigating and observed a male with injuries. The male was located behind the parapet wall on Track 1. At 18:24 hours, the RTRA Supervisor informed the Radio RTC that the shooting involved an FBI Agent and MTPD was on the scene. Incident Command was established. At 18:28 hours, the Radio RTC assigned the RTRA Supervisor as the RTRA Forward Liaison. At 18:33 hours, the Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC) contacted MTPD to inquire whether single tracking was an option. MTPD informed the MAC that Track 2 could be utilized for single tracking, and they could service the Blue and Orange lines on the lower level. At 18:34 hours, the Medic reported that the shooting victim did not have a pulse and was not breathing. The FBI Agent was transported to a local hospital. At 18:40 hours, Train ID 106 was the first train to single track on Track 2 at Metro Center Station.

The Track 1 upper level was closed during the investigation. On Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 02:20 hours, all personnel cleared from Metro Center Station, and the station was returned to service.

The probable cause for the evacuation for life safety reasons was activity (gunfire) that posed an immediate danger to customers and personnel in the area.

**Incident Site**

Track 1, Red Line 8 car marker, parapet wall

## Field Sketch/Schematics

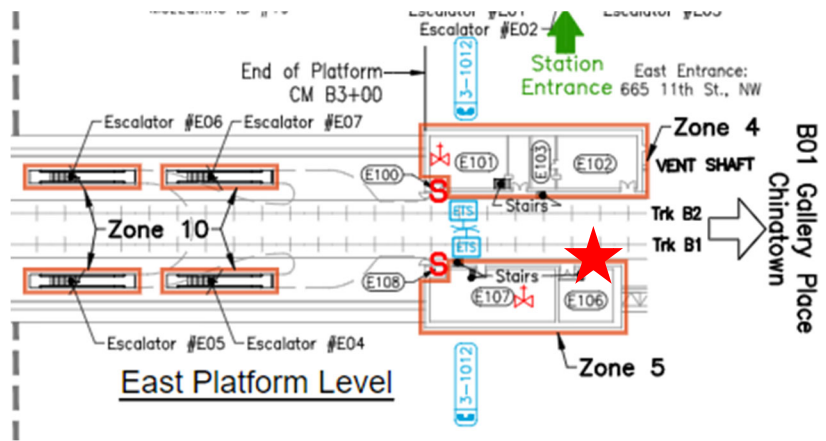


Figure 1: Locations are approximate. Not to scale.

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this incident 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 video and document review.
- Informal Interviews – Collected through conversations with individuals during the investigation to provide background and supporting information. Written statements were reviewed from personnel present during the event.
- Documentation Review – A collection of relevant work history information and process documentation contained in Metro systems of record. These records include:
  - Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook (MSRPH)
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- System Data Recording Review – A collection of information contained in Metro Data Recording Systems. This data includes:
  - Audio Recording System (ARS) playback includes OPS 1 Radio, Phone
  - ROCC Spots Report

## Investigation

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 18:21 hours, as Train ID 111 was entering Metro Center Station, there was gunfire. The Train Operator bypassed Metro Center Station and continued to Gallery Place Station. Moments after Train ID 111 bypassed Metro Center Station, a Station Manager contacted the Radio RTC to report a shooting at Metro Center Station, and they needed MTPD to respond. Customers began to self-evacuate from the station. At 18:22 hours, the ROCC Liaison contacted MTPD to inform them there was a reported shooting at Metro Center Station.

At 18:23 hours, an RTRA Supervisor at Metro Center Station informed the Radio RTC they were investigating and observed a male with injuries. The male was located behind the parapet wall, Track 1. At 18:24 hours, the RTRA Supervisor informed the Radio RTC the shooting involved an FBI Agent, and MTPD was on the scene. The Track 1 upper-level platform area was cordoned off for emergency response and investigation by law enforcement. At 18:27 hours, MTPD established Incident Command Post at 11<sup>th</sup> and G St. NW. At 18:28 hours, the Radio RTC assigned the RTRA Supervisor as the RTRA Forward Liaison. At 18:33 hours, the MAC contacted MTPD to inquire whether one track could be used to single track. MTPD informed the MAC that Track 2 could be utilized for single tracking, and they could service the Blue and Orange lines. At 18:34 hours, the Medic reported that the shooting victim did not have a pulse and was not breathing. The FBI Agent was transported to a local hospital. At 18:40 hours, Train ID 106 was the first train to single track on Track 2 at Metro Center Station.

On Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 02:20 hours, all personnel cleared from Metro Center Station, and the station returned to normal service.

### **Chronological Event Timeline**

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

<b>Time</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Wednesday, December 7, 2022</i>	
18:21:12 hours	Train ID 111 entered Metro Center Station. The Train Operator did not service the station. It bypassed and continued to Gallery Place Station. [Spots Report]
18:21:37 hours	<u>Station Manager</u> : Contacted the Radio RTC to report a shooting at Metro Center Station on the 11 <sup>th</sup> & G St side; they needed MTPD. [Ops.1]
18:21:50 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Asked if the shooting was on the platform. [Ops.1]
18:21:53 hours	<u>Station Manager</u> : Affirmed the shooting was on the red line platform towards Glenmont Station. [Ops.1]
18:22:04 hours	<u>Train Operator of Train ID 111</u> : Stated they went through Metro Center Station and were at Gallery Place Station. They were shooting at Metro Center Station. [Ops.1]
18:22:08 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Asked Train ID 111 if they serviced Metro Center Station? [Ops.1]
18:22:13 hours	<u>Train Operator of Train ID 111</u> : Responded negative. [Ops.1]
18:22:16 hours	<u>ROCC Liaison</u> : Contacted MTPD to inform them that the ROCC was reporting a shooting at Metro Center Station. [Radio]
18:22:18 hours	<u>Station Manager</u> : Asked the Radio RTC to stop trains from coming to Metro Center. [Ops.1]
18:23:06 hours	<u>RTRA Supervisor</u> : Informed the ROCC that they were at Metro Center Station investigating on the platform, and there was a person with injuries. [Ops.1]

Incident Date: 12/07/2022      Time: 18:21 hours  
Final Report – A-4: Evacuation for Life Safety  
Reasons  
E22795

Drafted By: SAFE 703 02/02/2023  
Reviewed By: SAFE 704 02/04/2023  
Approved By: SAFE 71 – 02/06/2023

Page 6

Time	Description
<i>Wednesday, December 7, 2022</i>	
18:23:45 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Stated Track 1, near the 8-car marker, there was a person with injuries. [Ops.1]
18:23:52 hours	<u>Station Manager</u> : Corrected the Radio RTC stating the person was over the parapet wall, on Track 1. [Ops.1]
18:24 hours	Metro Center is an active crime scene. [Ops. 1]
18:24:43 hours	<u>RTRA Supervisor</u> : Contacted the Buttons RTC and informed them an FBI Agent was involved. Personnel were rendering first aid, and MTPD was on the scene. [Phone]
18:25:45 hours	<u>MTPD</u> : Contacted the Buttons RTC to inform them of the shooting at Metro Center Station and requested all trains be held. [Phone]
18:26:31 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Broadcasted an announcement to all train operators on Ops. 1 that there was a police incident at Metro Center and trains will be turning around at Judiciary Square (from Glenmont) and Farragut North (from Shady Grove). [Ops.1]
18:27 hours	MTPD established Incident Command Post at 11 <sup>th</sup> & G St NW. [Radio]
18:28:37 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Informed the RTRA Supervisor they were assigned as the RTRA Forward Liaison. [Ops.1]
18:31:26 hours	<u>MAC Desk</u> : Contacted the SOCC to ask if they needed to shut down both lines. MTPD stated they were trying to ascertain that information. [Phone]
18:33:17 hours	<u>MAC Desk</u> : Contacted the SOCC to ask what Track could be used to single track. MTPD informed the MAC they could single track on Track 2 and they could service the Blue and Orange lines. [Phone]
18:39:50 hours	First train to single track at Metro Center Station. [SPOTS Report]
<i>Thursday, December 8, 2022</i>	
02:15:14 hours	All emergency personnel cleared, and PLNT personnel were the scene for clean-up. [Phone]

*\*\*Note: Times above may vary from other systems' timelines based on clock settings and reporting sources.*

## Weather

This event occurred within a tunneled section of the rail system. The weather was not a contributing factor in this incident (Weather source: NOAA – Location: Washington, DC.) On December 7, 2022, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as 57°F, with clear skies.

## Findings

- There were no findings of non-compliance with SOP #1A associated with this event.
- The Train Operator of Train ID 111 bypassed Metro Center Station without servicing. There were no safety concerns with this deviation from procedure.



### **Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence**

- Metro Center track 1 upper-level platform was closed for investigation.
- Trains were stopped from entering the upper-level platform of Metro Center Station.

### **Probable Cause Statement**

The probable cause for the evacuation for life safety reasons was activity (gunfire) that posed an immediate danger to customers and personnel in the area. There are no Recommended Corrective Actions resulting from this event.