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WMSC Commissioner Brief: W-0225 – Serious Injury – Anacostia Station – June 6, 2022

Prepared for Washington Metrorail Safety Commission meeting on May 16, 2023

Safety event summary:

Two Metro Transit Police Department officers were injured at Anacostia Station while attempting to stop a Metrorail rider who they believed matched a description provided in a “be on the lookout” (BOLO) notice.

One of the Metro Transit Police Department officers broke their ankle, which is classified as a serious injury under Federal Transit Administration regulations. The other injured their hand.

A Rail Operations Information Center Information Controller observed the event on CCTV. The Radio Rail Traffic Controller dispatched a Rail Supervisor and made a blanket radio announcement directing Green Line trains to enter and exit Anacostia Station at 15 mph or less. D.C. Fire and EMS transported both Metro Transit Police Department officers and the rider that they subsequently arrested to the hospital.

Probable Cause:

The probable cause of this event was a struggle between Metro Transit Police Officers and a rider.



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Department of Safety (SAFE)
Office of Safety Investigations (OSI)

FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION A&I E22343

Date of Event:	06/06/2022
Type of Event:	A-2 Serious Injury
Incident Time:	20:18 hours
Location:	Anacostia Station (F06)
Time and How received by SAFE:	20:18 hours
WMSC Notification Time:	20:18 hours
Responding Safety Officers:	WMATA: None WMSC: none Other: none
Rail Vehicle:	N/A
Injuries:	Fracture ankle, ligament damage to hand
Damage:	N/A
Emergency Responders:	Metro Transit Police (MTPD), DC Fire and EMS (DCFD)
SMS I/A Number	20220607#100817

Anacostia Station – Serious Injury

June 6, 2022

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARS	Audio Recording System
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
DCFEMS	District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Service
MTPD	Metro Transit Police Department
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ROCC	Rail Operations Control Center
RTC	Rail Traffic Controller
SAFE	Department of Safety and Environmental Management
SMS	Safety Measurement System
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
WMSC	Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Department of Safety – Office of Safety Investigations

Executive Summary

On June 6, 2022, at approximately 20:13 hours, two MTPD officers were injured, and one sustained a fractured ankle during a physical struggle to arrest a confrontational and non-compliant juvenile subject matching the description of a Be-On-The-Lookout (BOLO) suspect at Anacostia Station. The juvenile subject suffered minor injuries during the apprehension.

Rail Operations Information Center (ROIC) observed the incident on CCTV cameras. A ROIC specialist notified Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) and District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) at 20:18 hours.

DCFEMS arrived at Anacostia Station at approximately 20:29 hours, and departed at approximately 20:39 hours. Both MTPD officers were transported to George Washington University Hospital for treatment. The injured juvenile subject was transported by MTPD and treated at Children's Hospital.

The probable cause of the Serious Injury event was a criminal act by a member of the public during the act of arrest by sworn law enforcement officers. While effecting an arrest, MTPD officers were physically assaulted and received injuries.

Incident Site:

Anacostia Station F06- Platform

Field Sketch/Schematics:

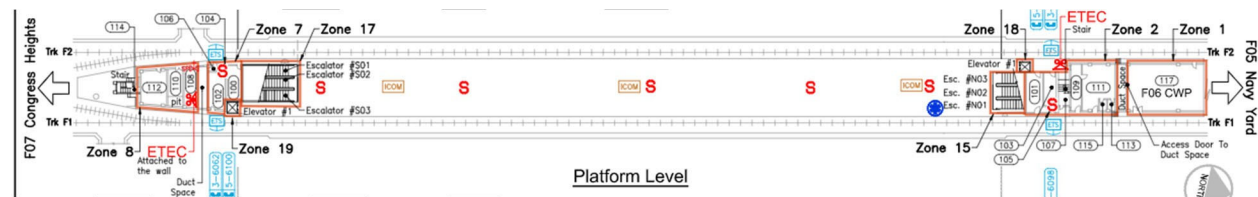


Figure 1: F06 Anacostia Platform

Purpose and Scope:

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

Investigation Process and Methods:

Upon receiving the A-2 Serious Injury on June 6, 2022, SAFE dispatched a cross-functional team to assess the scene and conduct the subsequent investigation. SAFE team members worked with relevant WMATA subject matter experts to review the incident's facts and data.

Investigation Methods:

The investigative methodologies included the following:

- Physical Site Assessment - A physical site assessment was conducted. There were no contributing factors or platform conditions associated to cause injury to the MTPD officers.
- Formal Interviews - SAFE will not interview individuals as part of this investigation.
- Informal Interviews - An informal interview of MTPD officers revealed that this incident occurred in the middle of the station's train platform.
- Documentation Review – A collection of relevant work history information and process documentation contained in Metro systems of record. These records include:
 - Employee Training Procedures & Records [Pending]
 - Metro Safety Rules and Procedures handbook (MSRPH)
 - National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data
 - Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) Incident Report

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
- Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)

Investigation:

On June 6, 2022, at approximately 20:18 hours, two MTPD officers were posted at the top of the escalators inside the Anacostia Station. MTPD observed a subject matching a BOLO description, walking towards the station platform. Upon approach, the MTPD officer explained to the juvenile subject the reason for their field interview and controlled stop.

After a brief verbal interaction, the subject attempted to walk away in an attempt to enter a berthed train on the platform. The juvenile subject did not adhere to further verbal commands from the MTPD officers and was arrested. A physical struggle ensued during the arrest on the station platform, injuring two MTPD officers; with one sustaining a fractured ankle.

ROIC observed the incident on CCTV cameras. An ROIC specialist notified ROCC and DCFEMS was dispatched to Anacostia Station at approximately 20:18 hours. DCFEMS arrived at Anacostia Station at approximately 20:29 hours and departed Anacostia Station at approximately 20:39 hours. Both MTPD officers were transported to George Washington University Hospital for treatment. The injured juvenile subject was transported by MTPD and treated at Children's Hospital.

Chronological ARS Timeline

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

Time	Description
20:13:21 hours	<u>MTPD Officer#1</u> : Anacostia Platform. <u>MTPD Dispatcher</u> : Officer#1 <u>MTPD Officer#1</u> : Yes Ma'am, can you help me out with a number BOLO, and I have MTPD Officer#2 here with me. <u>MTPD Dispatcher</u> : Go with it. <u>MTPD Officer#1</u> : [BOLO Number]. <u>MTPD Dispatcher</u> : Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio]
20:18:18 hours	<u>ROIC Specialist</u> : Camera [camera number], officer struggling with a guy on the platform, we got one down, the ambulance is en route, restricted speeds in and out of Anacostia. <u>RTC</u> : Acknowledged and Repeat. [Ambient Microphone]
20:18:16 hours	<u>ROCC RTC Radio</u> : RTRA Supervisor#1. [Radio]
20:18:19 hours	<u>ROCC RTC Radio</u> : RTRA Supervisor#1 report to Anacostia for Transit. <u>RTRA Supervisor#1</u> : Acknowledge and Repeat. [Radio]
20:21:35 hours	<u>ROCC RTC Radio</u> : Restrictive speeds 15 MPH or less due to an altercation at Anacostia. [Radio]

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

Advanced Information Management System (AIMS):

AIMS data was reviewed but not relevant to this event.

Interview Findings:

SAFE interviews were not conducted due to the criminal nature of this event.

Weather:

On June 6, 2022, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as 70°F, with clear skies. Weather was not a contributing factor in this incident Weather source: NOAA) – Location: Washington, DC.

Human Factors:

Fatigue Risk

Signs and Symptoms of Fatigue

Police Officers:

We evaluated conditions at the time of the incident to distinguish whether evidence of fatigue was present. Video of the incident was reviewed for behaviors suggesting fatigue. No indications of fatigue were evident from the video.

Police Officers:

The incident data was evaluated for fatigue risk factors. Risk factors for fatigue were not present. Since fatigue evidence and risk factors were not present, the biomathematical fatigue modeling application (SAFTE-FAST Web SFC) was not applied.

Post-Incident Toxicology Test:

Involved personnel did not undergo post-incident testing due to the serious injury event. Under WMATA's current Drug and Alcohol Policy and Testing Program Policy Instruction 7.7.3/6 5.0.2 testing categories, *"Nothing in this P/I shall be construed to require the delay of necessary medical attention for the injured following an accident or to prohibit a covered employee from leaving the scene of an accident for the period necessary to obtain assistance in responding to the accident or to obtain necessary emergency medical."*

Findings:

The CCTV recording revealed the following information:

- MTPD officers had a physical altercation with a juvenile subject while attempting to restrain and arrest the customer
- Two MTPD officers sustained injuries, one significant, while effecting the arrest.
- The juvenile subject suffered minor injuries during this incident.
- ROCC RTC delegated restrictive speed of 15 MPH or less entering and leaving Anacostia Station (F06).
- An informal interview of MTPD officers revealed that this incident occurred in the middle of the station's train platform.
- The site assessment revealed no additional hazards relating to the train platforms' condition or obstructions that contributed to the injuries sustained by the MTPD officers.

Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence:

- The arrest and removal suspect.

Probable Cause Statement:

The probable cause of the Serious Injury event was a criminal action by a member of the public during the act of a lawful arrest by sworn law enforcement officers. While effecting an arrest, MTPD officers were physically assaulted and received injuries.

Recommendations/Corrective Actions:

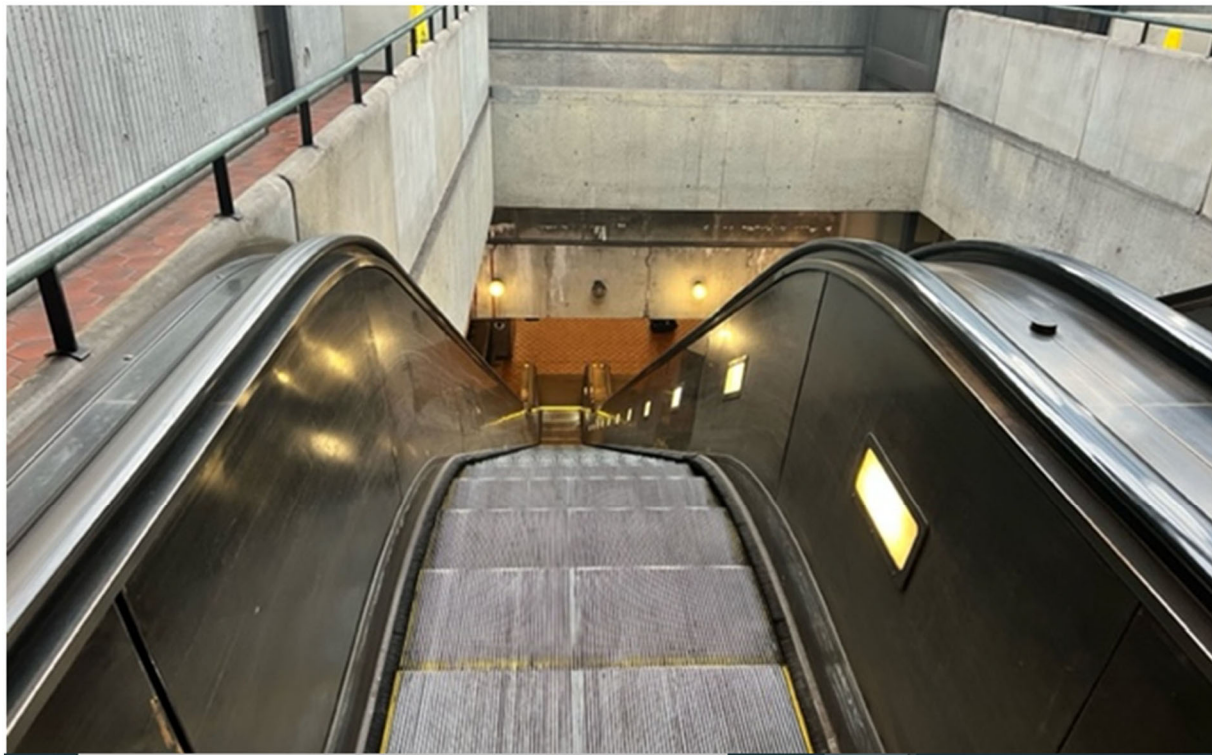
None

Appendices

Appendix A – Photographs of Anacostia Station



Figure 2 Anacostia Entrance



Figures 3 Anacostia Escalator Viewpoint



Figures 4 Anacostia Platform Viewpoint