

WMSC Commissioner Brief: W-0229 Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons – Capitol South Station – February 4, 2023

Prepared for Washington Metrorail Safety Commission meeting on June 13, 2023

Safety event summary:

Metrorail evacuated a train at Capitol South Station due to a bomb threat on February 4, 2023. A Metrorail employee reported to the Metro Transit Police Dispatcher that a rider had informed them that another rider said they had a bomb in railcar 6119 on Train 608.

A Metro Transit Police Department dispatcher provided the report of the threat to an MTPD supervisor. The Rail Operations Control Center initially directed Train 608 to hold at Federal Center SW Station, then directed the Train Operator to continue to Capitol South then hold on the platform. The Metrorail police dispatcher directed officers to meet Train 608 at Capitol South Station to investigate. The dispatcher stated that a bomb had been reported in car 6119. This was the trailing car of the train.

The train stopped at the station at 7:54 p.m. Metro Transit Police Department officers arrived just after the train arrived, inspected the train, and did not find anything of concern. They gave permission to single-track around the train.

At 8:06 p.m., Metrorail evacuated the train for a sweep by the U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit. There was initially some miscommunication regarding offloading the train as the Train Operator was seeking direction from the Rail Operations Control Center, rather than getting direction from the Metro Transit Police Department personnel who should have been operating as on-scene commander. In part, this may be due to Metrorail not establishing incident command as required by Metrorail procedure.

This sweep, conducted several minutes later, did not identify any explosive or suspicious device.

The train was later placed back into service.

Probable Cause:

The probable cause of this event was a bomb threat.

Corrective Actions:

Examples of related open CAPs

 C-0162 was created to address a 2022 emergency management and fire and life safety audit finding that Metrorail does not consistently follow the incident command system (ICS) structure and has procedures that do not comply with National Incident Management System (NIMS)/ICS requirements. For this CAP, which has an expected completion date of January 2025, WMATA has committed to creating and implementing an Incident Management System Framework in alignment with NIMS/ICS. Metrorail plans an initial transition to these updated procedures this summer.



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

FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION A&I E23079

Date of Event:	February 4, 2023
Type of Event:	Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons – Bomb Threat
Incident Time:	19:51 hours
Location:	Capitol South Station
Time and How received by SAFE:	19:51 hours – Mission Assurance Coordinator
	(MAC)
WMSC Notification Time:	20:29 hours
Responding Safety Officers:	None
Rail Vehicle:	Train ID 608
	L6093-6092 * 6120-6121 * 6118-6119T
Emergency Response	Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD), United
	States Capitol Police Department
Injuries:	None
Damage:	None
SMS I/A Incident Number:	20230205#105984

February 4, 2023

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

САР	Corrective Action Plan
ССТV	Closed-Circuit Television
MAC	Mission Assurance Coordinator
MSRPH	Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook
MTPD	Metro Transit Police Department
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
RTC	Rail Traffic Controller
RTRA	Office of Rail Transportation
ROCC	Rail Operations Control Center
SAFE	Department of Safety
SMS	Safety Measurement System
USCP	United States Capital Police
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
WMSC	Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

Executive Summary

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

On February 4, 2023, at 19:51 hours, the Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC) notified the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) dispatcher of a possible bomb threat on an unknown train car on Train ID 608 (L6093-6092x6120-6121x6118-6119T), on track 1 at Capitol South Station. At 19:55 hours, multiple MTPD units responded to Capitol South Station in a coordinated effort to investigate the reported bomb threat. The MTPD Dispatcher then advised the responding units that a patron said an unknown customer had a bomb in car 6119.

At 19:54 hours, Train ID 608 arrived and properly berthed on the platform at Capitol South Station, track 1. MTPD arrived on scene at 19:55 hours and performed an inspection of the train with negative findings. At 20:06 hours, all customers were offloaded from the train to the platform for Capitol Police's K-9 unit to perform a second sweep.

At 20:11 hours, the United States Capitol Police Canine Unit arrived and performed a sweep of the train consist, which resulted in negative results; no explosive or suspicious device was found.

At 20:12 hours, trains began single tracking. Train ID 902 was the first train to single track between Federal Center SW to Eastern Market. At 20:25 hours, an MTPD Supervisor cleared the train and advised that normal revenue operations could resume. All passengers reboarded the train safely without incident.

At 20:27 hours, the Radio RTC instructed the Train Operator of Train ID 608 to reboard the train and continue in revenue service. At 20:30 hours, Capitol South Station resumed normal operations. There was no damage or injuries as a result of this event.

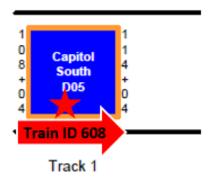
The probable cause of the Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons was the intentional action of a customer to report a bomb threat within the system. There were no significant findings related to the response and recovery for the event.

Incident Site

Capitol South Station

Field Sketch/Schematics

Track 2



*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.

Investigation Methods

Upon receiving notification of the Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons event at the Capitol South Station on February 4, 2023, 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.

The investigative methodologies included the following:

- Site assessment through video and documents 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.
 - Train Operator (Written Statement)
- Documentation Review A collection of relevant work history information and process documentation contained in Metro systems of record. These records include:
 - Train Operator Incident Statement
 - Train Operator Training Record
 - Train Operator 30-day Work History
 - Management Incident Report
 - Train Operator Incident Report

Incident Date: 02/04/2023 Time: 19:51 hours Final Report – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons E23079 Drafted By: SAFE 706 – 03/23/2023 Reviewed By: SAFE 71 – 04/05/2023 Approved By: SAFE 71 – 04/05/2023

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook
- System Data Recording Review A collection of information contained in Metro Data Recording Systems. This data includes:
 - Audio Recording System (ARS) playback includes OPS 2 Radio
 - Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)

Investigation

On February 4, 2023, at 19:51 hours, an MTPD dispatcher and the MAC broadcasted a notification to all MTPD field units to intercept Train ID 608 (L6093-6092x6120-6121x6118-6119T) on track 1 at Capitol South Station to investigate a bomb threat. The MTPD Dispatcher advised the responding units that a patron reported that an unknown customer had a bomb on an unknown train car and could not describe the reporter. At 19:55 hours, multiple MTPD units responded to Capitol South Station in a coordinated effort to investigate the reported bomb threat.

At 19:54 hours, Train ID 608 arrived and properly berthed on the platform at Capitol South Station, track 1. At 20:06 hours, all customers were evacuated from the train to a place of safety on the train platform. At 20:11 hours, the United States Capitol Police Canine Unit arrived and performed a sweep of the train consist, which resulted in negative results; no explosive device was found.

At 20:12 hours, trains began single tracking. Train ID 902 was the first train to single track between Federal Center SW to Eastern Market. At 20:25 hours, an MTPD Supervisor gave the all-clear and advised that normal revenue operations could resume. All passengers reboarded the train safely without incident.

At 20:27 hours, the Radio RTC instructed the Train Operator of Train ID 608 to reboard the train and continue in revenue service. At 20:30 hours, Capitol South Station resumed normal operations. Revenue service was impacted for a total of thirty-seven (37) minutes. There were no damages or injuries as a result of this event.

Chronological ARS Timeline

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

Time	Description
19:52:30 hours	MTPD Dispatch: MAC reported to the MTPD Dispatcher that information
	was received that Train ID 608 at L'Enfant Plaza has an active bomb threat; the person is in car 6119.
	<u>MTPD Dispatch</u> : Reported to MAC to stand by. MTPD Supervisor Unit, car 6119, received a call of a bomb threat. The train is at Federal Center en route to Largo. Patron stated that another patron had a bomb.
	[MTPD1X] **note- This information was received by the MTPD dispatcher calling back the original caller.
19:53:00 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Train ID 608 at Federal Center, track 1 hold on the platform with the doors closed.
	Train Operator: Acknowledged and repeated.
	Radio RTC: When you arrive at Capitol South, hold on the platform with your doors closed.
	Train Operator: Acknowledged and repeated.
	Radio RTC: Hold at Capitol South with your doors closed.
	Train Operator: Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio OPS 2]

Time	Description
19:53:22 hours	MTPD Dispatch: MTPD Units and Supervisors responded as en route to
	Capitol South and requested external resources for support. [MTPD 1X]
19:53:49 hours	Radio RTC: Train ID 608 at Capitol South, track 1, hold on the platform with
	the doors open.
	Train Operator: Doors opened at this time.
	Radio RTC: Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio OPS2]
19:55:15 hours	MTPD Unit: Reported on scene and requested the car and description.
	MTPD Dispatch: Car 6119, unknown description. [MTPD1X]
19:59:04 hours	MTPD Unit: Nothing to report, and no suspicious activity was observed. Will
	continue walking through the train to see if there is anything usual.
	[MTPD1X]
20:00:00 hours	Radio RTC: Announcement to Train Operators that trains were holding due
	to police activity at Capitol South. [Radio OPS2]
20:00:34 hours	MTPD Dispatch: US Capitol Police sent a canine to sweep the train.
	[MTPD1x]
20:02:52 hours	MAC: Can we obtain from the units on the scene if we can continue service
	or suspend service to the station?
	MTPD Supervisor: There doesn't seem to be a suspicious package on the
	train. Standing by for Capitol Police to sweep the train. We can single-track
	trains through the station on track 2.
	MAC: Acknowledged and repeated. [MTPD1X]
20:05:31 hours	Radio RTC: Announcement that trains will single track utilizing track 2
	Federal Center to Eastern Market. Train ID 902 was the first train to single
	track.
	Train Operator#2: Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio OPS2]
20:06:26 hours	MAC: Inquired if Train ID 608 at Capitol South had been offloaded.
	MTPD Dispatch: Units, can you advise?
	MTPD Unit: The train has not been offloaded.
	MAC: Acknowledged and repeated.
	<u>MTPD Supervisor</u> : In preparation for the Capitol Police canine, we will
00 07 07 1	offload the passengers. [MTPD1X]
20:07:07 hours	Train Operator: Do you want me to offload the train?
00 07 55 1	Radio RTC: Negative, be guided by Transit. [Radio OPS2]
20:07:55 hours	Radio RTC: Train ID 608, offload your train.
00.44.001	Train Operator: Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio OPS2]
20:11:36 hours	MTPD Dispatch: Units at Capitol South, US Capitol Police canine are on
	the scene.
00 17 15 1	MTPD Unit: Acknowledged and Repeated [MTPD1X]
20:17:45 hours	MTPD Supervisor: Reported Capitol Police conducted a sweep of the train.
20.10.10 haven	[MTPD1X] Redia RTC: Approximation to Train Operators that trains were single
20:18:19 hours	Radio RTC: Announcement to Train Operators that trains were single
	tracking by way of track 2 between Federal Center and Eastern Market.
20.05.47 haven	[Radio OPS2] MTDD Supervisers Departed that Capital Dalias access was completed but
20:25:47 hours	MTPD Supervisor: Reported that Capitol Police search was completed, but
00.07.04 5	nothing was found. Train ID 608 was placed back in service. [MTPD 1X]
20:27:31 hours	Radio RTC: Train ID 608, put your train in service.
	<u>Train Operator#1:</u> Acknowledged and repeated. [Radio OPS2] may vary from other system's timelines based on clock settings and reporting sources.

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

ROCC Spots Report

ROCS SPOTS REPORT

based on up-to-the-second operational performance data from the Rail Operations Control System

Current date/time: Tue May 30 16:00:23 2023

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605	<u>D05-1</u>	8	53				19:02:19	19:02:36	17	19:01:41	19:03:07	7736-7737.7221-7220.7718-7719.7697-7696	-
<u>907</u>	<u>D05-1</u>	8	20				19:04:13	19:04:30	17	19:03:38	19:04:55	7732-7733.7525-7524.7090-7091.7481-7480	1:54
<u>403</u>	<u>D05-1</u>	6	72				19:07:22	19:07:57	35	19:06:46	19:08:21	6136-6137.6024-6025.6104-6105	3:09
<u>453</u>	<u>D05-1</u>	8	19				19:12:51	19:13:05	14	19:12:17	19:13:33	3197-3196.3277-3276.3198-3199.3066-3067	5:29
<u>606</u>	<u>D05-1</u>	2	53				19:17:40	19:18:09	29	19:16:45	19:18:35	7600-7601.7695-7694.7076-7077.7533-7532	4:49
908	<u>D05-1</u>	2	20				19:27:27	19:27:44	17	19:26:52	19:28:09	7616-7617.7387-7386.7190-7191.7337-7336	9:47
404	<u>D05-1</u>	6	72				19:29:32	19:29:45	13	19:29:03	19:30:10	6061-6060.6149-6148.6156-6157	2:05
<u>454</u>	D05-1	0	19							19:31:05	19:32:13	unknown	-
607	<u>D05-1</u>	6	53				19:34:33	19:34:50	17	19:33:59	19:35:13	6074-6075.6110-6111.6155-6154	5:01
405	D05-1	6	72				19:42:10	19:42:25	15	19:41:42	19:42:55	3039-3038.3213-3212.3201-3200	7:37
901	D05-1	0	20							19:43:59	19:45:18	6073-6072.6043-6042.6138-6139.6169-6168	-
455	D05-1	6	19				19:48:32	19:49:08	36	19:48:02	19:49:31	3247-3246.3186-3187.3281-3280	6:22
608	D05-1	6	53				19:54:11	20:27:57	2026	19:53:32	20:28:24	6119-6118.6121-6120.6092-6093	5:39

Figure 1 - ROCC Spot Report PG-1

Train Operator (Written Statement)

- The Train operator stated that upon their arrival at Capitol South Station, they were instructed by ROCC to hold.
- The Train operator stated that MTPD boarded the train and advised that a passenger reported a bomb threat.
- The Train Operator stated that the Capitol Police K-9 swept the train and nothing was found.

Automated Information Management Systems



Figure 2 AIMS Report Train 608 arrived at Capitol South at 19:54 hours

Weather

On February 4, 2023, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as 32°F, with sunny skies. 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 D.C.)

Office of System Maintenance, Office of Radio Communication (COMR)

On February 9, 2023, COMR completed Work Order#17664423. Radio Checks were performed on the mezzanine, kiosk area, escalators, and platform areas; all were loud and clear.

Human Factors

Evidence of Fatigue

The biomathematical fatigue modeling application (SAFTE-FAST Web SFC) was not applied for this event.

Fatigue Risk

The biomathematical fatigue modeling application (SAFTE-FAST Web SFC) was not applied for this event.

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing was not conducted for this event.

Findings

- The train was held at Capitol South Station until Law Enforcement could arrive and assess the threat.
- Passengers were offloaded under the direction of MTPD.
- Responding personnel advised the Train Operator of the report and ROCC instructed the Train Operator to be governed by the Incident Commander.
- Incident Command was not established. **note- fast paced event was effect to clear the threat.

Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence

- Train ID 608 was evacuated.
- MTPD responded and isolated the rail car.
- Capitol Police swept the train for any suspicious device without incident.
- Trains were single-tracking utilizing track 2.

Probable Cause Statement

The probable cause of the event at Capitol South Station was the intentional action of a customer to report a bomb threat within the system. There were no significant findings related to the response and recovery for the event.

Appendix A – Interview Summary

Train Operator (Written Statement)

The Train operator stated that they were instructed to hold their location upon arriving at Capitol South Station. A few minutes later, Transit showed up and informed them that a passenger called in a bomb threat on their train. The train was offloaded. A bomb-sniffing dog combed through the train but didn't find anything. ROCC informed them they were clear and to put the train back in service.

		be completed for all incidents	
214/23	Incident Time:	Time Reported:	Reported by: Customer @ Employee D
Location	8:10 PM	8: 10 PM	ROCC Other O
Station	Mezzanine	# Track #/Destination	Chain Marker/Signal Number
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TYPE OF INCIDE		i norsisiummi	271
Property Damage	Smoke	🗅 Fire	Customer Complaint
Customer injury	Customer IIIne	for all and	Employee Illness
Criminal Activity	Elevator Entra		
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		equipment number you use for	
Elevator/Escalator#:		AFC #:	Room Number/Location:
Failure Number(s):			
Parking Lot D Paid A	krea 🗆 Free Area 🗅 Gar	rage 🗆 Station Entrance 🗆 Stairway	# Platform C Ancillary Room C
-	aboard Train 🗆 Other 🗆		
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LIGHT IV			
	Destination	Car Numbers(list all cars in cor	nsist): Lead Car:
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Figure 3 Train Operators Written Statement

Appendix B – MTPD Event Report

ALC: NOT THE OWNER OF	Event Report									
M	Metro Transit Po						ORI-DCMTP000			
Type of Report Open 2023-00964-0		4-001	District o	Local CCN						
	1									
Event Location Street	Station Acronym	City, S	State	County	MTP District	Local Distric	†			
355 1st St Se	CAPS - CAPIT SOUTH		SHINGTON, 20024	D01- District 01	District 3	D01-Dist	rict 01			
Do	ite and Time of Event			1	Date o	and Time Reported				
From	To 2023 7:52:00 PM	I				023 7:52:17 PM				
				Category						
Rail Station, Line or I CAPS - CAPITAI			On Bus		Property Rail Static	on MS				
Blue	LSOUTH				Rall Static		~			
	ot Bridge, Klosk, Platfor	m, Tracks, Etc.	1		For Bu	rglavy or B&E Only				
	Rail Car					le Applies, #Premises (or Facilities Entered:			
D the st			Lo	cation Descr	iption					
Rail Station										
Event Information	on									
If Incident Use This Block	Offense#	Bomb	Threat							
Incident Classification	Offense Classificatio									
Incident Description		Bomb	Threat							
	Weapon/Force Type of Activity	/								
				Nu	mber Premises En	tered:				
Entry Type:										
Hate Crime Motivati	on: None (no bias) (mutuall	y exclusive)							
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation			y exclusive)							
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation	on: None (no bias (mutually exclusi									
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation	(mutually exclusi			perandi (MO):						
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation None (no bias) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio	(mutually exclusi	ve)	Modus ()	perandi (MO): cared Exception	ually.	Gearasce Date				
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation None (no bias) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio	(mutually exclusi	ve)	Modus ()		ally	Clearasce Date				
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation None (no bias) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio	(mutually exclusi Using: n I by the Official who signs t	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception	ally, Micer (Print)	Clearance Date				
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation None (no bias) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio Case Status (Completed	(mutually exclusi Using: n I by the Official who signs t	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception						
Hate Crime Motivati Bias Motivation None (no bias) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio Case Status (Completed	(mutually exclusi Using: In the Official who signs to Body Body	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception	fficer (Print)		10#			
Hate Crime Motivati Blac Motivation None (no blas) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio Case Status (Completed Reporting Officer (Print)	(mutually exclusi Using: In the Official who signs to Body Body	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception Second (fficer (Print)	Bodge #	10#			
Hate Crime Motivati Blac Motivation None (no blas) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio Case Status (Completed Reporting Officer (Print)	(mutually exclusi Using: In the Official who signs to Body Body	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception Second (fficer (Print)	Bodge #	10.4			
Hate Crime Motivati Blac Motivation None (no blas) Offender Suspected of I Case Status Informatio Case Status (Completed Reporting Officer (Print)	(mutually exclusi Using: In the Official who signs to Body Body	v e) his report):	Modus ()	eared Exception Second (fficer (Print)	Bodge #	0.#			

Figure 4 MTPD Incident Report

Victim Sequence #		Victim Assistance P	vowided: Y - Yes			
		- And Party and Co				
		- 71-				
	(Street) City, State 600 5th St, NW WDC	, 20001				
Entity Name						
	ess-Addl. Contact Info NW WDC, 20001					
Age of Victim	Sex	Race	Ethnicity		Resident Status	
39	Male	Black or	U - Unknown		Resident	
		African				
		American				
Classification of		Type of Victim	1.0//		Victim is Related to Which Offe	ense
	Bomb Threat		ment Officer	993	5 - DC - Bomb Threat	
is suspect inton	nauch available at the time (a und report:				
Injury Type		Reen	onding Ambulance:		Takan	Where
and the		Nesp	and the second second second		raterr	
Aggravated Ass	ault/Homicide Information					
	Aggravated Assault/Homic	ride Circumstances		Add	tional Justifiable Homicide Circ	umstances
Other Persor	Information					
Other Person						
Other Persor						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Persor						
Other Persor						
Other Persor						
Other Persor						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Person						
Other Persor						
Other Persor						
Other Person						
Other Person	Information				Event Report Page 2	2 of 4
	Information				Event Report Page 2	2 of 4

Figure 5 - MTPD Incident Report PG-2

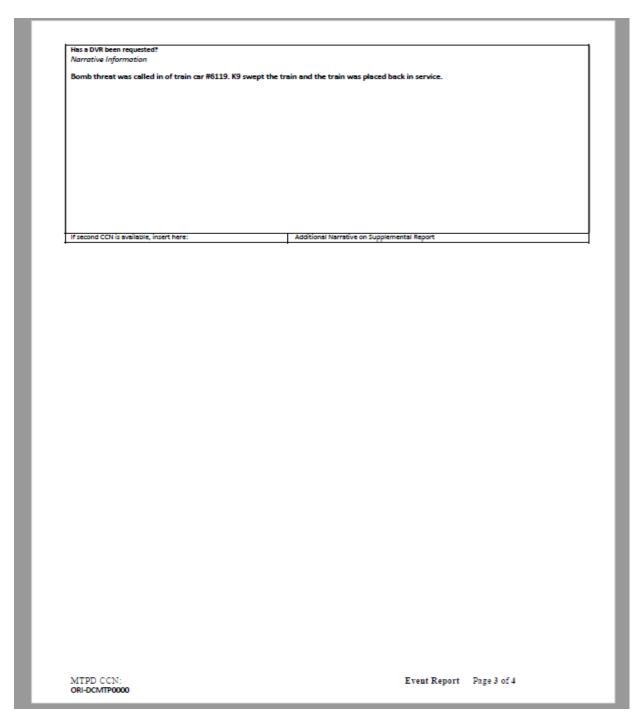


Figure 6 - MTPD Incident Report PG-3

responding to a repo nothing unusual. Cap	rt of a bomb threat called in aboard N bitol Police sent a K9 unit to sweep the	tely 1952 hours at the Capitol South Metro fetro Train 608/ car#6119. Upon arrival I ca e train which did not find anything unusual te train was out of service. There was no lo	anvassed the entire train and found . The train was out of service from 19
тѕос	on 02/05/2023 at	approximately 0940 hours. TSA #02-03827	-23

Figure 7 - MTPD Incident Report PG-4

Appendix - C Why Tree Analysis

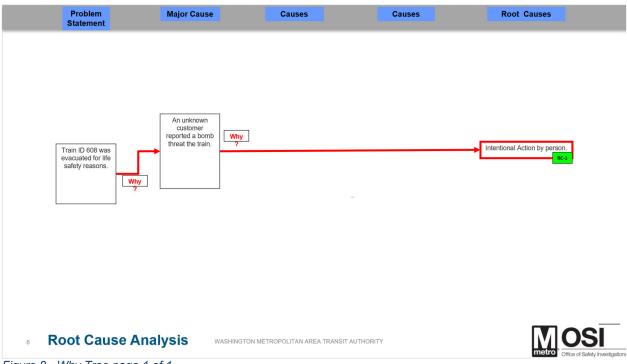


Figure 8 - Why Tree page 1 of 1.