



WMSC Inspection Report 20251212

ISSUED 12/15/25

Inspection Details

Title: Red Line - Life Safety Inspection

Location: Red Line (Farragut North (A02) to Van Ness (A06)

Date of Inspection: 12/12/2025

Time of Inspection: 7:00am to 11:00am

Unannounced

Risk-Based (Corrective Action Plan - TOC-EGR15-002-A, CAP C-0295, WMSC-20220228, WMSC-20250228)

Functional Area: Life Safety, Stations

Hazard Rating: 1D

Overview

On Friday, December 12, 2025, WMSC inspectors conducted a risk-based Life Safety inspection of multiple stations along the Red Line. The goal of the inspection was to verify station manager's emergency equipment, station egress routes, and that areas of refuge were clear of obstructions. The inspection focused on visually confirming the presence of required station manager emergency equipment, emergency egress routes (to include areas such as landings, areas of rescue/areas of refuge) are clear of obstructions, and the readiness/condition of the station fire cabinets and the included fire safety equipment, therein.

This is a risk-based inspection based on multiple WMSC findings requiring Metrorail corrective action plans (CAP) related to obstructed egress pathways and areas of rescue issued to Metrorail. Following Safety Directive 16-2, issued on December 15, 2015, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) required Metrorail to complete corrective action plan CAP-TOC-EGR-15-002-A, during the period of FTA Safety Oversight of Metrorail. WMSC was certified as the designated state safety oversight agency for Metrorail on March 18, 2019, and following certification, the WMSC assumed oversight of the remaining open CAPs that were, up to that point, being overseen by the Federal Transit Administration during FTA safety oversight of Metrorail. Therefore, the corrective action plan CAP-TOC-EGR-15-002-A was a CAP which was absorbed into the WMSC's oversight program after



its certification. The WMSC oversaw the completion of this CAP and on May 15, 2020, the WMSC closed CAP TOC-EGR-15-002-A when the requirements of the CAP were met.

On January 29, 2025, the WMSC approved a Metrorail corrective action plan (C-0295), based on [finding 3 of the 2025 Emergency Management and Life Safety Programs Audit](#) which states: “Metrorail fire and life safety inspections do not identify and resolve deficiencies with fire life safety equipment and assets within stations.”

On February 28, 2022, WMSC issued an inspection report on [Fire Life Safety and Emergency Trip Station \(ETS\) Inspection](#) between Rhode Island Avenue (B04) and Metro Center Stations (A01). The inspection identified non-operational out of service Emergency Trip Station (ETS) locations in close proximity to the functioning ETS Boxes. The non-operational and out of commission ETS Boxes should be removed to prevent confusion by personnel during an emergency.

On February 28, 2025, WMSC inspectors conducted a [risk-based inspection](#) to verify whether station egress routes and areas of refuge were clear of obstructions. The inspection identified obstructed fire equipment cabinets, improper usage of surge protectors which create a fire hazard, and an unsecured high voltage room door.

During the December 12, 2025, inspection, to which this inspection report pertains, a total of five Metrorail stations were inspected on the Red Line starting at Farragut North (A02) and ending at Van Ness- UDC (A06).

- Farragut North (A02)
- Dupont Circle (A03)
- Woodley Park (A04)
- Cleveland Park (A05)
- Van Ness (A06)

The Station Manager logbooks were reviewed, and the following safety equipment were inspected at each station:

- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Emergency maps
- Bull horn
- Wireless microphone

After concluding the inspection, the WMSC Inspectors conducted a debrief with each Station Manager in accordance with Program Standard Section 6.F.1.



Defects and Corrective Actions

WMSC Inspections identify safety issues that may be classified as defects, findings, or recommendations. Findings and recommendations are defined by Program Standard Section 5.E.2 and 5.E.3 respectively. Ordinarily, issues identified in a WMSC inspection report are classified as defects. Defects are specific safety issues of non-conformance/non-compliance that are identified and that require remedial action.

This inspection did not identify any findings or recommendations and therefore does not require a WMSC Corrective Action Plan in accordance with Program Standard Section 5.E.4.

Defect Observations and Determinations

Defect 1

At Farragut North (A02), non-operational ETS Boxes are located at each end of the station platform and are not secured. There is a temporary/insubstantial paper sign attached with grey duct tape stating, "out of service" on one of the discontinued ETS boxes. The discontinued/non-operational ETS boxes must be secured to prevent these from being mistaken for functioning ETS boxes and being accessed or relied upon during an emergency event. A previous such condition noted by a WMSC inspection was mitigated by Metrorail as seen in the third photo below showing a mitigated discontinued non-operational ETS box at Judiciary Square.

Hazard Rating: 1D

Photos:



Photo 1 (left): An open non-operational ETS box at Farragut North (A2).

Photo 2(right): A "Not in Service" sign on one of the non-operational ETS boxes at Farragut North (A2).



Photo 3: An example of a mitigated legacy non-operational ETS box that was sealed shut at Judiciary Square (B02).

Defect 2

A long metal pole was hanging on the outside of the Station Manager's Kiosk on the upper level of the platform located at Dupont Circle (A03). The metal pole is a potential hazard should a patron or employee accidentally walk into the pole.

Hazard Rating: 2E

Photos



Photo 4: Unsecured metal pole used to retrieve fallen items at Dupont Circle (A03).

Defect 3

At Dupont Circle (A03), Fire Cabinet 200 located in the emergency equipment room is partially obstructed. In an emergency, access to the equipment inside of the cabinet would be restricted as a result of materials that are being stored as the photo shows - which would inhibit the response to an emergency.



Hazard Rating: 2D

Photos

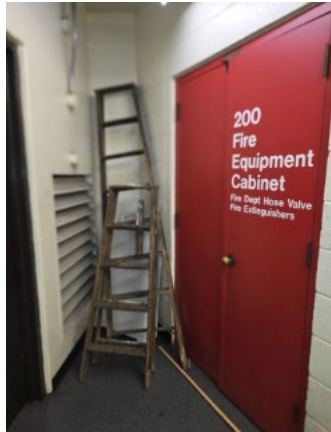


Photo 5: Partially blocked fire equipment cabinet 200 at Dupont Circle (A03).

Defect 4

Fire equipment cabinet 108 at Dupont Circle (A03) contains an aerosol spray container stored with the two-fire extinguishers. The aerosol can is a combustible item and poses a fire hazard.

Hazard Rating: 4D

Photos



Photo 6: Contents of fire equipment cabinet 108 at Dupont Circle (A03).

Defect 5

Fire equipment cabinet 101 at Woodly Park (A04) contains an aerosol spray stored with the two-fire extinguisher. The aerosol can is a combustible item and poses a fire hazard. In addition, a piece of metal was improperly stored in the cabinet next to the fire extinguishers and aerosol spray container.



Hazard: 4D

Photos:



Photo 7: Contents of fire equipment cabinet 101 at Woody Park (A04).

Defect 6

At Woody Park (A04), in fire equipment cabinet 101 located in room C-200, one of the two fire extinguishers has an inspection card with no signatures. Fire extinguishers are required to be inspected monthly. This extinguisher cannot be verified as functioning and up to date since it was never inspected shown by a lack of signatures on the inspection card that was attached. Not inspecting fire extinguishers introduces the risk of the extinguisher not being functional during an emergency condition.

Hazard: 2D



Photos



Photo 8: Fire extinguisher (right) missing inspection signatures in fire equipment cabinet 101 in room RMC-200 at Woody Park (A04).

Defect 7

Fire equipment cabinet 101 at Cleveland Park (A05) contains miscellaneous items stored with the two fire extinguishers. Fire Equipment cabinets are to be used only for storage of fire related emergency equipment and not the storage of miscellaneous items.

Hazard: 4D

Photos



Photo 9: Miscellaneous items stored in fire equipment cabinet 101 at Cleveland Park (A05).



Defect 8

Fire equipment cabinet C-204 located on the mezzanine level at Cleveland Park (A05) also showed trash and debris stored with the emergency equipment and fire extinguishers. Fire equipment cabinets are to be used only for storage of fire-related emergency equipment and not the storage of trash and other miscellaneous items. Such storage practices could inhibit the access to life safety equipment in this cabinet during emergencies.

Hazard Rating: 2D

Photos:

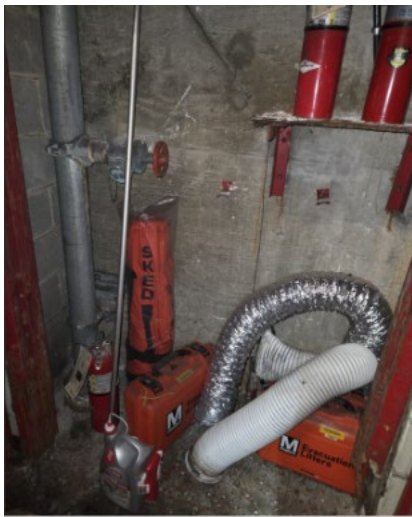


Photo 10: Contents of fire equipment cabinet C-204 at Cleveland Park (A05).

Defect 9

At Cleveland Park (A05), in the emergency equipment room 202 located on the mezzanine level, several fire hazards were identified. For example, a microwave oven was plugged into an extension cord; another extension was plugged into a secondary cord power strip; and a secondary power strip was plugged into a surge protector. Each one of the separate cords should be connected to an individual electrical outlet, thereby eliminating the fire hazard.

Hazard Rating: 2D



Photos

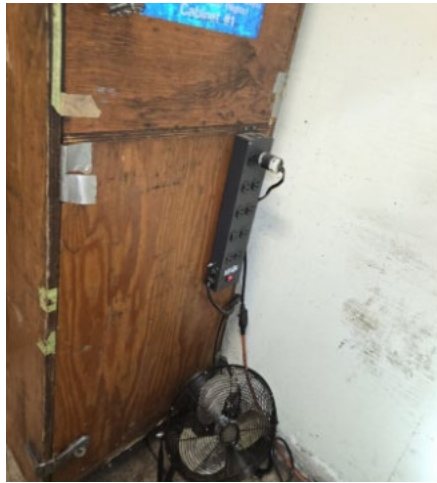


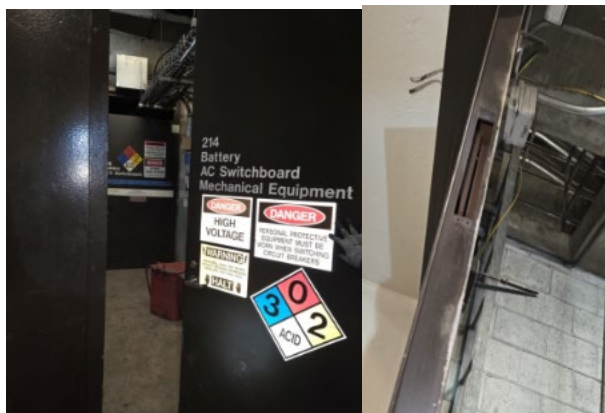
Photo 11: Secondary power strip plugged into a surge protector at Cleveland Park (A05).

Defect 10

In the emergency equipment room 202 on the mezzanine level at Cleveland Park (A05), the battery AC switchboard mechanical equipment Room 214 is located. Room 214 has “Danger” and “High Voltage” sign and a NFPA diamond sign warning personnel that the contents in the room are extremely corrosive and requires special handling. However, the door to this room 214 is malfunctioning and not able to be locked and secured. This is an area that is frequented by customers as the customer bathrooms are in the same area.

Hazard Rating: 1D

Photos



Photos 12 and 13: Unsecured AC switchboard mechanical room at Cleveland Park (A05).



Defect 11

At Van Ness UDC (A06), a microwave oven and refrigerator are plugged into a power strip located in the emergency equipment room on the mezzanine level. Overloading power supplies is a fire hazard. Cooking devices are required to be plugged directly into outlets.

Hazard Rating: 2D

Photos



Photo 14: microwave plugged into a power strip.

Next Steps

Please respond **by Thursday, December 18, 2025**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.