



# WMSC Inspection Report 20260312B

ISSUED 3/16/2026

## Inspection Details

Title: Alexandria Yard (C99) Car Wash Inspection

Location: Alexandria Yard (C99)

Date of Inspection: 3/12/2026

Time of Inspection: 7:30am to 9:30am

Unannounced

Risk-Based (Corrective Action Plan TOC-OTR-15-006)

Functional Area: Life Safety

Hazard Rating: 2D

## Overview

On March 12, 2026, WMSC Inspectors carried out an inspection of the car wash facility at Alexandria Yard (C99).

This is a risk-based inspection based on findings from the [Federal Transit Administration's Safety Directive 16-2](#). Directive 16-2, TOC-OTR-15-006, stated “WMATA must install a Train Movement Indication system in all car wash facilities.” This corrective action was closed by the WMSC after Metrorail confirmed funding availability, the associated task order (FQ 17044-19-031), and for the installation of the car wash warning systems at the six identified locations (West Falls Church Yard (K99), Alexandria Yard (C99), Greenbelt Yard (E99), Branch Ave Yard (F99), New Carrollton Yard (D99), and Glenmont Yard (B98)). At the time this directive was issued (December 15, 2015) and at the time the WMSC closed this CAP (January 30, 2020), the Dulles Yard was not yet in existence.

Rail vehicle car washes represent a complex set of risks and is, therefore, a unique area of the Metrorail system. The rail vehicle car wash is considered part of the Metrorail roadway.<sup>1</sup> That means the same hazards that are present on the roadway exist in the car wash, but the car wash also presents additional hazards. Adherence to Metrorail’s roadway worker protection rules are essential to keeping workers safe from injury or death; however, because of the additional hazards associated with the washes, additional mitigations are required to keep personnel safe. The unique hazards of the car wash include industrial cleaning fluids that require special protection and

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<sup>1</sup> “Carwash tracks, including their associated cleaning tank tracks, are considered part of the roadway.” (Metrorail Operating Rulebook, definition of roadway, p. 233.)



location-specific hazards. For example, on the location-specific hazards: Car washes are directly connected to the Service and Inspection (S&I) shops located in various rail yards. This means a worker could open a door without awareness of the hazards of train movement and third rail high-voltage electricity immediately on the other side of the door. To mitigate these unique hazards, all car wash facilities in the Metrorail system (except Dulles (N99)) have a train motion detector and alarm system that visually and audibly notifies workers in the area that a rail vehicle is moving in, out, or through the car wash and poses a serious threat to the safety of workers in proximity.

The WMSC is in the process of conducting a comprehensive set of car wash inspections at all such locations to assess the operating environment and hazards of each facility present. The WMSC initiated these inspections as a result of an outstanding action to have a “train motion detection/safety enhancement system” installed at the Dulles Yard (N99) Car Wash (W-RY-9, WMSC Pre-revenue Service Review of Silver Line, Phase 2). The collective goal of these inspections is to assess the car wash facilities across the Metrorail system.

After concluding the inspection, the WMSC inspectors conducted a debrief with the supervisor onsite in accordance with Program Standard Section 6.F.1.

## Defect Observations and Determinations

### Defect 1

The track one entry door of the car wash was inoperable due to a collision with the door<sup>2</sup>. The broken door is located on the west side entrance. The damaged door is recorded in the interlocking operator’s logbook. A Maximo<sup>3</sup> work order (WO) has been submitted (WO 20139782) to fix the damaged door.

### Hazard Rating: 2D

### Photos:



Photo 1: broken car wash train entry door on track one.

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<sup>2</sup> Collision reported to the WMSC on January 29, 2026, as I-3: Collision (Minor) - C99 – Alexandria Yard within the two-hour requirement.

<sup>3</sup> Maximo is the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (WMATA) database for asset management. Maximo tracks, manages, and reports all maintenance activity for WMATA.



## Defect 2

WMSC Inspectors noted one of the doors inside the car wash displayed a “LOOK FOR TRAINS” warning sign while the corresponding door on the opposite side of the car wash was without signage.

**Hazard Rating: 2D**

### Photos

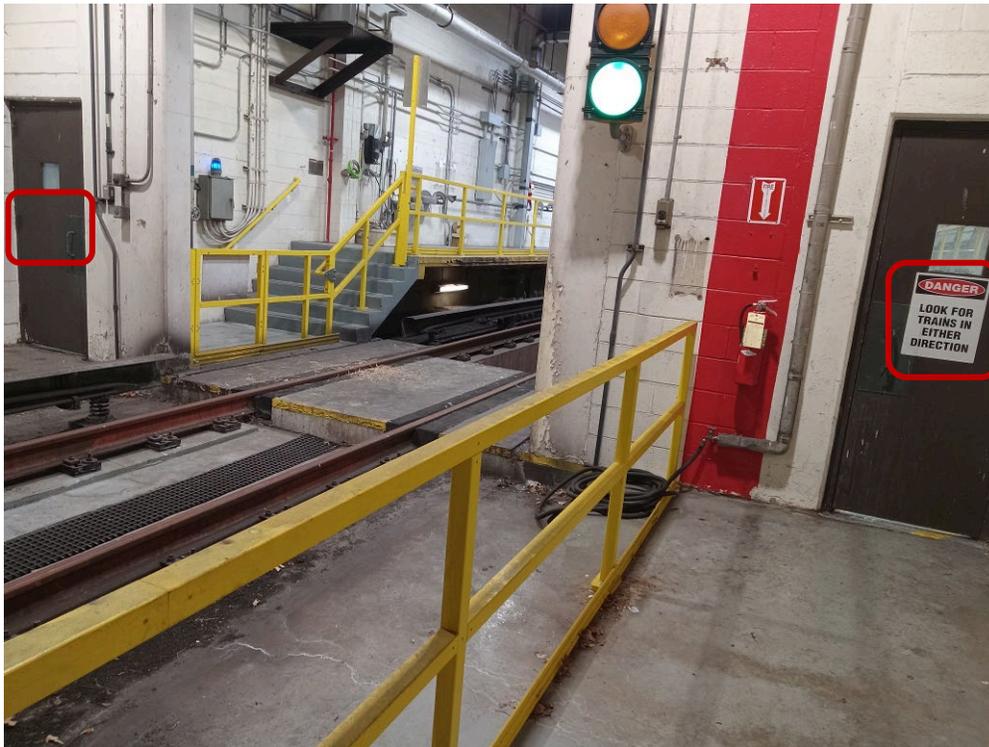


Photo 2: Signage on one door (right) but not on the opposite side door (left).

## Defect 3 (mitigated)

While onsite, WMSC Inspectors observed personnel in the Service and Inspection (S&I) shop of the Alexandria Yard performing work that required the use of safety glasses. The personnel lacked the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), and this was communicated to onsite staff, and the risk was mitigated onsite.

**Hazard Rating: 1B**



### Observation 1

WMSC Inspectors observed peeling paint on walls in multiple locations throughout the car wash. The paint chips and peeling paint could pose a health risk depending on the type of paint initially used.

### Photos



Photo 3: An example of peeling paint on the interior of the facility.

### Next Steps

Please respond **by Thursday, March 19, 2026**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.