



WMSC Inspection Report 20260701

ISSUED 7/6/2026

Inspection Details

Title: Preventative Customer Injury and Life Safety Inspection

Location: Gallery Place-Chinatown (B01)

Date of Inspection: 7/1/2026 and 7/2/2026

Time of Inspection: 7:00am to 1:00pm (on 7/1); 8:00am to 10:00am (on 7/2)

Unannounced

Risk-Based (Data Review)

Functional Area: Elevator or Escalator, Life Safety, Stations

Hazard Rating: 2C

Overview

On July 1 and July 2 of 2026, WMSC Inspectors performed a risk-based preventative customer injury and life safety inspection at Gallery Place-Chinatown Station (B01). This entailed visually confirming the presence of required station manager emergency equipment, emergency egress routes such as landings and areas of rescue/areas of refuge are clear of obstructions, and fire cabinets and the included safety equipment. Additionally, a comprehensive inspection was performed on slip trips and fall hazards.

In 2025, WMATA reported 119 customer injuries to the WMSC that met the triggering definition of “requiring immediate treatment by medical professionals away from the scene.” ([Program Standard](#) Section 7, Safety Event Code I-2 (a).) These types of customer injuries were the third most frequently reported safety hazard in 2025, which remains true to-date in 2026. So far in 2026, there have been 53 through June 30, 2026.¹

There are multiple aspects that can lead to a customer injury at a station, such as:

- Train and platform alignment (i.e. size and height of spacing)
- Loose, misaligned, or cracked floor tiles
- Uneven surfaces of more than ¼ inch
- Emergency and other lighting

¹ Source: WMSC Safety Events Dashboard.



- Escalator comb plates, whether any broken or misaligned teeth
- Presence of wet floors and if so, proper temporary signage

After concluding the inspection, WMSC Inspectors conducted a debrief with the station managers of each kiosk 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

WMSC Inspectors visited all public areas of the station and all non-public rooms, reviewed the station manager's logbook and the following safety equipment was inspected at each station kiosk:

- Cameras
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Emergency maps
- Bull horn
- Wireless microphone
- Public Announcement System (PA)

Defect 1

WMSC Inspectors requested the F01 kiosk station manager to test the Gallery Place public address system via both the wired microphone and the wireless microphone. The test identified a nonfunctional public address as both the wired and wireless microphones were nonfunctional. Additionally, the back-up bull horn was not present in the kiosk. This condition was reported to the Safety Information Official on July 1, 2026, at 10:15am (Report number 3256) as an Immediate Safety Concern in accordance with Program Standard 6.D.7.b.

On the following day, July 2, 2026, WMSC Inspectors re-inspected this aspect and confirmed the wireless microphone was operational (Mitigated); **however, the wired microphone remained nonfunctional and the bull horn was also not in the kiosk.**

Hazard Rating: 2C



Photo



Photo 1. Nonfunctional public address system showing a missing button and covered with tape.

Defect 2

WMSC Inspectors requested the kiosk mezzanine 20 station manager to test the Gallery Place public address system via both the wired microphone and wireless microphone. The test identified that the wireless microphone was nonfunctional. (Emergency bull horn present and functioning at this kiosk.)

Hazard Rating: 2C

Defect 3

WMSC Inspectors identified that access to Customer Restroom N206 is impeded by stored items.

Hazard Rating: 4C



Photo



Photo 2. Items impeding access to the restroom.

Defect 4

WMSC Inspectors identified one of the upper mezzanine exit signs is damaged and in need of repair.

Hazard Rating: 3D

Photo



Photos 3 and 4. Exit sign damaged and location.

Defect 5

At multiple locations, the stairs adjacent to escalator had a light that was not illuminated.

Hazard Rating: 3C



Photo



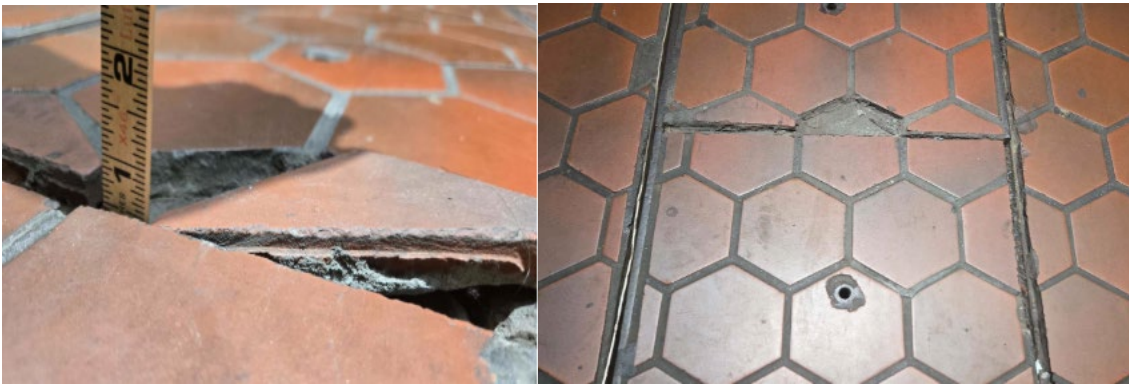
Photo 5. One of many lights observed on escalators that was not illuminated.

Defect 6

On the upper mezzanine level adjacent to the damaged exit sign, there is a slip trip and fall hazard created by a damaged tile.

Hazard Rating: 2D

Photo



Photos 6 and 7. Damaged station floor tile.

Defect 7

On the upper platform there is an Emergency Trip Station with a non-illuminated blue light. ETS Box B-03.



Hazard Rating: 2D

Photo



Photo 8. ETS blue light B-03 is not illuminated.

Defect 8

WMSC Inspectors identified that access to Fire Equipment Cabinet N201 was impeded by the storage of a trash receptacle.

While on site, WMSC Inspectors requested that the item be relocated.

Hazard Rating: 4C

Photo



Photo 9. Trash receptacle blocking the fire equipment cabinet.



Defect 9

WMSC Inspectors identified improper storage of chemicals and materials in fire equipment cabinet.

While on site, WMSC Inspectors informed the station manager of this condition.

Hazard Rating: 4D

Photo



Photos 10 (left) and 11 (right). Photo 10 shows improper storage of chemicals. Photo 11 shows materials stored in the fire equipment cabinet.

Defect 10

WMSC Inspectors identified water accumulation outside Room N203 and N202, which creates a slip, trip, and fall hazard.

While on site, WMSC Inspectors made the station manager aware of this condition, and it was mitigated on July 1. Upon reinspection on July 2, 2026, the water accumulation condition had returned.

Hazard Rating: 3D



Photo



Photos 12 and 13. Presence of water.

Defect 11

WMSC Inspectors identified items improperly stored in Fire Cabinet N100.

Hazard Rating: 4C

Photo



Photo 14. Non-fire equipment items stored in the fire equipment cabinet.



Defect 12

WMSC Inspectors identified damaged comb teeth on escalator N05. Broken comb teeth can trap footwear (especially rubber-soled shoes) and could lead to a customer injury.

Hazard Rating: 2C

Photo



Photo 15. Comb teeth missing on escalator N05.

Defect 13

WMSC Inspectors identified that the escalator landing at N05 is misaligned by more than ½ inch. According to the ADA Standards (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Section 303 “Changes in Level”), uneven walking surface with a vertical displacement exceeding ¼ inch and presents a trip hazard requiring corrective action.

Hazard Rating: 3D



Photo



Photo 15. Misalignment at escalator landing.

Defect 14

WMSC Inspectors identified chemicals stored below and on the water fountain outside the customer bathroom N206, adjacent to employee Bathroom N205.

Hazard Rating: 4C

Photo



Photos 16 and 17. Chemicals stored on and below the water fountain.



Defect 15

WMSC Inspectors identified chemicals stored in employee bathroom N205.

Hazard Rating: 4C

Photo



Photos 18 and 19. Chemicals stored in the employee bathroom.

Defect 16

Wet floor sign located outside Kiosk F01 on July 1, 2026. When re-inspected on July 2, 2026, according to Metrorail staff, the sign had been in that location for several days.

Hazard Rating: 4C

Photo





WASHINGTON METRORAIL SAFETY COMMISSION

Photo 20. Wet floor sign near the kiosk.

Next Steps

Please respond **by Thursday, July 9, 2026**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.