



A Message to NCTD COASTER Passengers

Oceanside, CA,; Monday, Sept. 15, 2008

COASTER passengers have no doubt heard about last Friday's train accident involving a METROLINK commuter train and a freight train in the Chatsworth area of Los Angeles. Our condolences go out to the many people affected by this tragedy. Information released by METROLINK indicates that the accident may have been caused by a failure of the METROLINK train engineer to observe and obey a stop signal on the tracks just before the accident occurred.

NCTD and its operating contract partner, TransitAmerica Services, Inc., want you to know that we place the highest priority on the safety of our operations. The COASTER system has both operating rules and procedures, and mechanical equipment in place designed to help prevent an accident like this from happening here. The operating safety rules require engineers to call out all signal indications over the radio, as each signal is approached. The rules also include a prohibition against the engineer using cell phones during train operations. Adherence to these rules is regularly monitored and tested through field observations.

The mechanical equipment includes a built in audible warning system in the train cab. If the train engineer fails to stop at a red (STOP) signal, the system will stop the train automatically. The train dispatcher is also automatically notified.

As a follow up to the METROLINK incident, NCTD staff and our operating contractor are briefing COASTER operating crews on what happened in Los Angeles and are reinforcing our safety rules and practices as further safeguards to prevent such an incident from happening on the COASTER. We will continue to do everything possible to ensure the safest possible service for our customers.

Be safe and thank you for riding the COASTER.

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT

For trip planning and transit information call: 511

Persons with hearing impairment: 711

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