



**ITEM ID:** 2024-331-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** December 6, 2024

**MEETING DATE:** December 13, 2024

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Tim Morehead, Interim Chief Safety, Security and Compliance Officer  
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**SUBJECT:** System Safety, Security, and Compliance (SSSC) Department Activities - Update Q1 FY25

**Issue**

Staff is providing a summary of the Authority's safety, security, and compliance activities for Q1 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

**Recommendation**

Receive and file.

**Strategic Commitment**

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitment of:

- **Safety is Foundational:** We will stay on the leading edge by deploying new technologies and processes to enhance the safety and security of our riders, our fellow employees, and the communities we serve. Law enforcement services provide safety and security to the Metrolink commuter rail system and its passengers.

**Background**

The Authority's mission is to provide safe, efficient, dependable, and on-time transportation service for the southern California region. The SSSC department works to optimize the agency's safety and promote a positive safety culture in the workplace through education,

engineering, and enforcement, as well as auditing and inspecting for safety and regulatory compliance. Using a data-informed approach, the department utilizes leading and lagging data indicators coupled with management experience, research, and professional expertise to understand current trends and make decisions about the use of Agency resources in areas of focus.

Additionally, SSSC tracks and evaluates inspections conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and other regulatory agencies. These inspections apply the general and permanent rules published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Transportation (Title 49 CFR Part 200-299) to oversee agency compliance and assess penalties for violations against freight and commuter railroad agencies. The FRA conducts inspections and audits agencies' records to monitor and enforce railroad safety regulations specified in Title 49 CFR. The Authority places paramount importance on safety and regulation compliance.

The primary mission of the Authority's law enforcement services is to ensure public safety onboard the trains, to coordinate enforcement with the cities along the Authority's right-of-way (ROW), and to assist with the Authority's fare enforcement and physical security program.

## **Discussion**

### **Strike Incidents**

In Q1 of FY25, there were a total of 13 strikes (3 pedestrians, 7 trespassers, and 3 vehicles) compared to a total of 24 strikes in Q1 FY24 (6 pedestrians, 11 trespassers, and 7 vehicles), a decrease of 46%. In our effort to mitigate system-wide strikes, staff, and our Los Angeles County Sheriff's Metrolink Bureau are continuing the following mitigating measures:

- Request local police agencies to increase patrols in the high strike areas
- Increase grade-crossing enforcements in high strike areas
- Encourage the reporting of trespassers to Metrolink Security Operations to identify high risk areas
- Conduct community outreach
- Deploy additional mobile closed-circuit-televisions
- Clean up homeless encampments

The SSSC Department outreach continues to address strikes on our system. Public Safety outreach has coordinated assessment efforts with various governmental and non-governmental groups in proximity to SCRRA tracks to aid in raising awareness of increased service. Public Safety outreach also continues to engage with groups in Orange County and Los Angeles County to reduce trespasser strikes and promote community awareness.

### **Law Enforcement Presence on the Platforms, Trains, Grade-Crossings, and Right-of-Way by County**

Law enforcement presence on the platforms with fare enforcements, riding trains, grade-crossing details, and right-of-way details (Table 1) are making impacts to the safety of our system. We utilized crime data to support our directed enforcements to mitigate crimes and trespassing activities. In Q1 of FY25, our law enforcement partner focused 79% of their efforts in Los Angeles County which encompasses part of Antelope Valley Line, Ventura Line, San Bernardino Line, Riverside Line, Orange Line, and 91/Perris Valley Line.

Table 1: FY25 Q1 Law Enforcement Activities

Q1 FY2025 Activities	Los Angeles	Riverside	San Bernardino	Ventura	Orange
Train Rides	351	25	63	21	38
Platform Fare Enforcements	1372	228	281	15	102
Grade Crossing Details	378	56	135	69	9
Right-of-Way Details	2,752	51	87	6	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,853</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>161</b>

### Rule Violations and Reportable Injuries

In Q1 of FY25, there were nine rule violations compared to the seven in Q1 of FY24, which is an increase of two. Of the nine rule violations, two occurred at Central Maintenance Facility and two at Los Angeles Union Station. The Safety, Security, and Compliance Department has taken a proactive approach to rules violations and oversight of SCRRRA contractors. The root cause team continued to conduct investigations and make recommendations to mitigate future incidents across various contractors. Q1 Root Cause Analysis investigations found the following violation primary contributing factors:

- Uncertain of expectations
- Failed to verify limits
- Employee complacency
- Lack of understanding the rule
- Breakdown in communication

During Q1 of FY25, there were eight FRA reportable employee injuries, which is an increase of three, compared to the five reportable injuries in Q1 of FY24. Of the eight reportable injuries for Q1 of FY25, six were Amtrak employees. While none of the reportable injuries have been catastrophic, management remains committed to working closely with our contractors and contract managers to mitigate future occurrences.

The investigation of suspected rule violations and reportable employee injuries is a critical part of our operations in our proactive efforts to prevent future incidents. As such, a comprehensive Root Cause Analysis is conducted with the railroad departments responsible for contractor oversight and the contractor/employee involved. Throughout this process, SSSC collaborates with management to identify any contributing factors that may have led to such incidents and work together to recommend measures aimed at preventing and mitigating future occurrences. Once the investigation is complete, corrective actions are promptly implemented with a requirement of written confirmation from the contractor of adherence to the Authority within 30 days. This practice not only promotes a safe work environment but also helps to ensure that our agency is in compliance with established regulatory and rulebook guidelines.

Safety, Security, and Compliance staff contribute to the effort to reduce injuries and rule violations by conducting systemwide safety inspections, investigating and conducting root cause meetings, attending contractor safety committee meetings, reviewing incident trends,

follow-up on corrective actions taken by SCRRA Staff and contractors, and conducting audits for regulatory compliance on SCRRA departments and Operations contractors. The SSSC team held fourteen root cause analysis meetings and assisted System Safety with eleven Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 270 audits for regulatory compliance.

In an effort to keep rule violations down, in Q1 the Compliance staff in collaboration with Operations staff continues to review videos to include all contractors who move equipment. Contractors who move equipment include Alstom, Amtrak, and TASI. Additionally, Compliance staff has increased their focus observations on maintenance and layover facilities.

The SSSC department proactively addresses workplace injuries and rule violations by conducting a quarterly Workplace Safety Campaign week aimed at enhancing employees' safety awareness and reinforcing the importance of maintaining a secure work environment.

The Q1 campaign took place from August 19 - August 23, 2024, and featured the following key safety messages:

- Peer Accountability
- Knowing Your Limits/ Continuous Improvement
- Safety Above All
- Empowerment- The Power to Stop / Challenge
- Review Data and Trends

Throughout the week, 2,240 contacts were made through 152 face-to-face and virtual meetings with employees and contractors.

## **Training**

The System Safety, Security, and Compliance (SSSC) Department continued its commitment to promoting a culture of safety awareness throughout our organization and beyond by providing training for employees, contractors, and external stakeholders, including law enforcement and fire agencies. In Q1 of FY25, department staff conducted multiple training courses aimed to raise awareness of potential workplace and emergency response hazards and provide participants with the necessary tools to avoid them.

Of note in Q1: SSSC Staff coordinated 27 First Responder and Law Enforcement Safety Equipment Familiarization classes, where 353 First Responder and Law Enforcement participated.

Overall, the department recorded 77 classes in Q1, during which 705 participants were trained. This number represents the combined attendance of employees, contractors, and external stakeholders who took part in the department's training courses.

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**Attachment(s)**

Presentation - SSSC Update FY25 Q1