

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

Florida Fusion Center 20-234

December 2020, Issue #39

BusinessSafe Highlight: Mass Transit and Passenger Rail Subsector

Criminal Activity

The mass transit and passenger rail subsector consists of terminals, operational systems, and supporting infrastructure for passenger travel via buses, commuter rail including subways, long-distance rail, and other modes of transportation. In all, it was typically responsible for around 34 million trips each weekday prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mass transit and passenger rail systems may be a target for criminal actors seeking to take advantage of their security vulnerabilities and extensive operational networks, which also include thousands of employees, facilities, and computerized networks.

1. **Cyberattacks** – Cybersecurity is a growing concern as many control and management systems have become more dependent on information technology. Many mass transit systems have implemented cybersecurity measures to limit network vulnerabilities and protect against system intrusions. In some instances, cyberattacks against the computerized aspects of this subsector can lead to disruptions in transportation services or data issues.
[Notorious criminal group hacks Fort Worth agency, holding data for ransom, experts say](#)
[Hackers attack Sacramento transit system and demand \\$8,000 ransom](#)
[Ransomware attack on San Francisco public transit gives everyone a free ride](#)
2. **Physical Attacks** – Many mass transit systems in Florida prohibit weapons and drugs onboard mass transit vehicles. However, mass transit systems may face security challenges since many have limited security screening processes due to high passenger turnover at various stops and interchanges. This may allow criminal actors to bring weapons onto mass transit vehicles or quickly flee the area after an attack. There have been recent instances where mass transit employees and passengers have been victims of physical attacks.
[A man is brutally beaten on a Miami train. He is the fourth person this month, police say.](#)
[Bus passenger caught on camera attacking driver in West Park](#)
[Another bus driver attacked in Tampa, police say](#)
3. **Trespassing** – Rail lines in Florida are typically located close to highly populated areas, so trespassing is a common occurrence. Trespassers are at risk of injury or death by oncoming trains. In 2019, there were 24 trespassing fatalities in Florida according to the Federal Railroad Administration.



Florida Fusion Center
(800) 342-0820

FLBusinessSafe@FDLE.state.fl.us

Author: FL8791, Approval: FL8600, HSEC-1, HSEC-8, FSIN-1, FSIN-2

[FRA report identifies four states with highest fatal railroad trespasser strikes](#)
[CSX agent arrests homeless man on railroad property in Wildwood](#)

Other Threats and Hazards

The mass transit and passenger rail subsector also faces other major threats and hazards. Certain threats and hazards that disrupt regular mass transit and passenger rail operations may lead to severe damage to property, train and rail components, economic disruption, and harm to passengers and innocent bystanders.

1. **Train Derailment and Collision** – In rare instances, passenger trains are susceptible to derailments or collisions, given that they travel at rather high speeds with limited maneuverability. The incidents can be attributed to different factors such as track-related conditions and collisions with other objects or vehicles. There have also been instances where criminal actors have tampered with tracks to cause train derailment.
[Arrest Made In 'A' Train Derailment In Manhattan; MTA Working To Restore Normal Service For Monday](#)
[Multiple killed after train involved accident near Jupiter](#)
[Train derails in Florida; at least 6 killed](#)

2. **Terrorism and Targeted Violence** – Mass transit and passenger rail networks have a high volume of passengers and numerous entry, exit, and transfer points, which may make them an attractive target to terrorists. Terrorist attacks on this subsector are rare in the U.S., but attacks and attempted attacks have occurred against this subsector both domestically and overseas. Terrorists have used homemade bombs (also known as improvised explosive devices, or IEDs), edged weapons (such as knives, machetes, swords, etc.), and firearms in attacks against mass transit and passenger rail systems. Security awareness and suspicious activity reporting can aid in preventing these types of attacks.
[5 hurt, suspect survives New York City attempted suicide terror attack](#)
[Two US service members helped foil a potential terror attack on a Paris-bound train](#)
[After coordinated bombs, London is stunned, bloodied and stoic](#)

Resources

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) provides a list of trainings, certifications, and other resources for those working in the mass transit and passenger rail subsector.

[Safety Training](#)

Learn more about traveling safely when using public transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic by using the links below.

[COVID-19 Best Practice Information: Public Transportation Distancing](#)

[Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#)

[Wear Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](#)

Learn more about suspicious activity related to bus and train terminals by using the link below.

[Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Bus and Train Terminals](#)

To sign up to receive *BusinessSafe* directly to your email, visit our [website](#).



Florida Fusion Center
 (800) 342-0820

FLBusinessSafe@FDLE.state.fl.us

Author: FL8791, Approval: FL8600, HSEC-1, HSEC-8, FSIN-1, FSIN-2