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Public Transportation ISAC Transit & Rail Intelligence Awareness Daily Report (TRIAD)

February 6, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Suspect Arrested For Assaulting Elderly RTC Bus Driver In Sparks

News4, 2/5/2025

[Sparks, Nevada] A 28-year-old man is in custody after allegedly assaulting a 78-year-old RTC bus driver, leaving him injured and requiring hospitalization. The Sparks Police Department responded to a report of battery on February 3 near Glendale Ave. and Linda Way. Officers determined that the elderly bus driver had been attacked by a passenger. According to police, video footage from the RTC bus showed the suspect punching the driver, knocking him from his seat, and then kicking him while he lay on the floor. The suspect fled the scene, leaving the driver injured. On February 4, RTC employees spotted the suspect near the RTC station in Reno. Reno Police officers detained the suspect until Sparks Police officers arrived and arrested him. <https://mynews4.com/news/local/suspect-arrested-accused-of-beating-elderly-rtc-bus-driver>

Bloody Outbreak Of NYC Subway Crime Leaves At Least 5 Hurt In Stabbings, Slashings And A Beating: Cops

New York Post, 2/5/2025

[New York] A bloody outbreak of crime hit the city's subway system over the past week – with at least five people hurt in a string of attacks including stabbings, slashings and a beating, cops said. In the most recent burst of violence, a man was slashed on his hand as he tried to disarm a knife-wielding woman on board a No. 4 train at East 125th Street and Lexington Avenue in East Harlem Wednesday morning, cops and sources said. The 21-year-old woman and 43-year-old man, who do not know each other, started arguing on the train around 6:40 a.m., cops said. ...So far this year through Sunday, 49 felony assaults have been reported in the city's subway system, down from the 58 recorded during the same period last year, the latest statistics show. But last week was particularly violent for the subway system, with 11 felony assaults reported, compared to just six during the same stretch in 2024, according to the data. <https://nypost.com/2025/02/05/us-news/bloody-outbreak-of-nyc-subway-crime-leaves-at-least-5-hurt-in-stabbings-slashings-and-a-beating-cops/>

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Queens Subway Rider Nabbed For Taking Up Multiple Seats Linked To Sex Abuse Crimes

New York Daily News, 2/5/2025

[New York] A Queens subway rider busted for sprawling across more than one seat was then linked to several recent frightening crimes against women, including groping three schoolgirls, police said. Matthew Leon might still be on the streets had he not been caught lying across several seats on a No. 7 train in Flushing Monday afternoon, cops said. That minor infraction is part of a list of subway rules NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced last week police will more strictly enforce as part of a new focus on quality-of-life offenses. Leon, 25, was asked for identification so that he could be issued a summons but the ID, listing him as Matthew Klyn, was fake, police said. Officers eventually determined his real name and realized he was wanted for two Manhattan subway attacks, both on Jan. 23, in which he allegedly punched two women in the face less than two hours apart on R trains near the Eighth St.-NYU station, police said. The woman, 27 and 57, were minding their own business when Leon walked up to them and punched them, police said. They suffered minor injuries.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/02/05/queens-subway-rider-matthew-leon-multiple-seats-sex-abuse-punch-arrest/>

Multiple ICE Impersonation Arrests Made During Nationwide Immigration Crackdown

CNN, 2/5/2025

Authorities in at least three states have arrested individuals allegedly impersonating Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at a time when real ICE agents have ramped up immigration enforcement efforts under the Trump administration, adding to existing fears of law enforcement among migrant communities. In South Carolina, Sean-Michael Johnson, 33, was charged with kidnapping and impersonating a police officer after allegedly detaining a group of Latino men along a Charleston County road. Johnson is accused of “willfully and unlawfully presenting himself as an ICE Agent and detaining a vehicle of individuals from moving,” according to court records. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/04/us/ice-impersonators-on-the-rise-arrests-made-as-authorities-issue-national-warning/index.html>

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

In UK, Rise Of Indian-Origin Extremist Ideologies Risks Deepening Divisions: Analysts

South China Morning Post, 2/5/2025

A leaked UK Home Office report has, for the first time, identified Indian-origin Hindu nationalist extremism, Hindutva and the Sikh separatist movement as domestic security concerns. Analysts said the United Kingdom must navigate these ideological tensions carefully, as unchecked extremism risked fuelling further violence and deepening divisions within diaspora communities. The UK Home Office’s report, commissioned by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in August 2024, was recently leaked to the right-

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leaning Policy Exchange think tank. The report called Hindu nationalist extremism “an extremist ideology that advocates for Hindu supremacy and seeks to transform India into an ethno-religious Hindu state”. Hindutva was described as a political movement that “advocates for the hegemony of Indian Hindus and the establishment of a monolithic Hindu Rashtra or state in India”. The report noted: “Tensions between Hindu and Muslim communities in the UK are still evident and the events in Leicester show how disinformation can play a role in offline action.” <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3297492/uk-rise-indian-origin-extremist-ideologies-risks-deepening-divisions-analysts>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: In recent months, policymakers in the UK have sought to change and broaden which ideologies can be considered extremist or terrorist by law. According to the South China Morning Post, a recently leaked UK Home Office report has listed Hindu Nationalist Extremism as a “domestic security concern.” The primary Hindu nationalist ideology of concern mentioned is Hindutva, which is a right-wing ideology founded around the turn of the 20th century in India that “defines the cultural identity of India in terms of Hinduism and desires to make India an overtly Hindu nation-state.” This belief has historically led to significant violence and tensions between various ethnic and religious groups in India as proponents seek to marginalize non-Hindus. Aspects of the ideology remain popular in India, and the current ruling political party of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party, can trace its origins to the original Hindutva and still adheres to the strong elements of nationalism laid out in it. Over the past 50 years, this ideology has increasingly popped up in Hindu communities outside of India. Some adherents of this ideology fit the description of being ultranationalist, holding strong Hindu supremacist beliefs and have engaged in violent acts and threats of violence in Western nations in furtherance of Hindutva. In 2021 in the U.S., over 50 major U.S. academic institutions, including Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, and Princeton, held a “Dismantling Global Hindutva” conference to discuss the dangers of the ideology. In the weeks leading up to the conference, adherents of the ideology sent over one million emails, many of which contained death threats and rape threats, to scholars planning on attending. Some scholars reported that their family members were also targeted by the harassment campaign. Hindutva violence garnered international media attention in Leicester, England in 2022 when Hindutva extremists and Muslims clashed and carried out ethnic violence, riots, protests, and hate propaganda against each other (and police) following the India-Pakistan 2022 Asia Cricket Cup games.

2025 Homeland Security Threat Forecast: Revisiting Our Approach to Terrorism Prevention

Homeland Security Today, 2/4/2025

As homeland security professionals consider 2025 and beyond, we need to take stock of the variety of attacks we’ve seen, and using our evolved terrorist “profile,” update our investments in preventing and investigating attacks. ... Explain the terrorist “profile” – As new leaders come or return to power in national security, we will have to explain the evolution of the terrorist profile, helping them understand that well beyond ideology, what terrorists have in common is disenfranchisement with their place in

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society. It is not uncommon for these individuals to first aspire to violence as a means of channeling their frustration, and then to find the ideology to support it. The recent New Orleans attacker highlights this and further breaks the “traditional” model as he was middle aged, which had typically been considered “stable,” versus younger 20-year-old attackers. <https://www.hstoday.us/featured/2025-homeland-security-threat-forecast-revisiting-our-approach-to-terrorism-prevention/>

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

Police Issue Warning About Robberies Happening On CTA Red Line Trains In Fuller Park

ABC 7, 2/4/2025

[Chicago, Illinois] Chicago police are warning about robberies happening on CTA Red Line trains on the city's South Side. There have been five incidents reported near the 47th Street stop since the start of the year. That's in the Fuller Park neighborhood. Police say three or four suspects have been approaching victims, demanding their property, and hitting them. Police have not made any arrests.

<https://abc7chicago.com/post/police-issue-warning-fuller-park-chicago-robberies-happening-trains-cta-red-line-47th-street-stop/15865745/>

BART Crime Drops Nearly 20 Percent In 2024

KRON4, 2/5/2025

[San Francisco, California] Crime on BART saw a 17% drop last year, according to Bay Area Rapid Transit. Violent crime in particular fell 11% in 2024 when compared to the previous year, the agency said. BART's crime drop came as the transit system saw an increase in ridership. BART served 2.6 million more trips than it carried in 2023 last year. BART, citing the BART Police Department chief's end-of-year crime report, said the total number of property crimes on the system fell to 536 fewer incidents than there were in 2023. Auto thefts also saw a 34% drop with 29% fewer. The transit system also cited BART PD's response time to Tier 1 emergencies in December, which at 3 minutes and 56 seconds, was “among the fastest for any law enforcement agency in the Bay Area,” BART said. “The BART Police Department's continued focus on boosting its visible presence in the system appears to be having an impact for both rider and front-line safety,” BART said. <https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/bart-crime-drops-nearly-20-percent-in-2024/>

Ice Storm Forecast: Midwest and Northeast Face Dangerous Weather

Newsweek, 2/5/2025

A powerful ice storm is set to affect the Midwest and Northeast of the U.S., bringing treacherous conditions, including freezing rain, sleet and potential power outages. Meteorologists warn that travel disruptions and hazardous road conditions will be widespread from Wednesday into Thursday. The

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National Weather Service has issued ice storm warnings and winter weather advisories across multiple states, stretching from the Great Plains through the Ohio Valley and into New England. The storm is expected to produce ice accumulations of up to a quarter inch in some areas, making roads slick and increasing the risk of fallen trees and downed power lines. According to AccuWeather meteorologist Brandon Buckingham, the storm carries the potential for "dangerous amounts of ice accretion into Thursday," which could lead to widespread power outages and tree damage.

<https://www.newsweek.com/ice-storm-weather-forecast-map-freezing-rain-2026552>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 6 February 2025, the National Weather Service (NWS) warned that a winter storm would be impacting the Great Lakes, the northern Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast with a "combination of snow, sleet and freezing rain." The NWS forecast predicts up to an inch of ice accumulation for parts of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, and a quarter inch of ice accumulation from Washington D.C. to Philadelphia, as well as for much of Pennsylvania, northern Ohio, northern Indiana, and southern Michigan. Generally speaking, under a quarter inch of ice is considered a "nuisance event" that makes roads slick and results in minor power outages and icing on trees and windshield. A typical "disruptive" ice storm type event occurs when icing is between one quarter of an inch and half an inch, which often results in widespread power outages and dangerous driving conditions. According to Weather.com, a half inch of ice on power lines can add an extra 500 pounds of weight to each line, making winds much more destructive than they would usually be. The same principle applies to tree branches, which often fall on already compromised power lines during these types of storms. Ice storms that bring over half an inch of ice are considered "crippling" and result in severe tree damage and multiple days long power outages. Icing also impacts roadways and presents significant dangers to those driving on them. Vehicles can begin to slip and have trouble braking with just a tenth of an inch of ice present. According to Icy Road Safety, approximately 1,800 people are killed in the U.S. every year in accidents caused by icy conditions, and a further 136,000 are injured.

Speed Vs. Security: The Truth About Weapons Detection Systems

Security Magazine, 1/31/2025

In today's world, ensuring the safety of public spaces is no longer optional — it's a responsibility. Concealed Weapons Detection Systems (CWDS) are crucial tools in this effort, but the market is flooded with options, each claiming to be the fastest and most effective. Decision-makers must grapple with the fundamental trade-offs between speed and security, often making the difficult choice of which aspect to prioritize for their unique environment. As administrators navigate these decisions, they face the sobering reality of growing concerns from parents and teachers about campus safety, particularly the threat of gun violence. Data from Everytown for Gun Safety reveals an increase in gun-related incidents on school campuses across the United States. During the 2022-2023 academic year alone, there were at least 144 incidents of gunfire on school grounds — a 31% increase from the previous year — resulting in

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36 fatalities and 87 injuries. The increase in gun violence in schools underscores the critical need for advanced weapons detection systems that not only work quickly but are also highly reliable in identifying concealed mass-casualty weapons. <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/101345-speed-vs-security-the-truth-about-weapons-detection-systems>

Norfolk Southern Rail Bridges In Western Pennsylvania In Disrepair, Study Warns

PublicSource.org, 2/5/2025

In February 2023, 38 train cars owned by the company Norfolk Southern derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, sparking a fire and leading to the vent and burn of thousands of gallons of the toxic chemical vinyl chloride. Norfolk Southern recently announced a settlement with the town for \$22 million. Since the derailment, rail safety in the United States has taken on a new sense of public urgency. In Western Pennsylvania, just over the border from East Palestine, a report on rail bridges aims to raise the alarm about the state of aging infrastructure. An engineering firm inspecting 20 Norfolk Southern and feeder bridges in the Pittsburgh area found 11 in serious or poor condition. "It is critical for Pittsburgh, for Pennsylvania and for the rest of this country that we have more oversight," said Glenn Olcerst, founder of Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh, a grassroots group that advocates for changes to rail regulation and hired the firm to produce the report. <https://www.publicsource.org/pittsburgh-bridges-rail-northern-suffolk-collapse-environment-infrastructure/>

CYBERSECURITY

New SLAP & FLOP Attacks Expose Apple M-Series Chips to Speculative Execution Exploits

The Hacker News, 1/29/2025

A team of security researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology and Ruhr University Bochum has demonstrated two new side-channel attacks targeting Apple silicon that could be exploited to leak sensitive information from web browsers like Safari and Google Chrome. The attacks have been codenamed Data Speculation Attacks via Load Address Prediction on Apple Silicon (SLAP) and Breaking the Apple M3 CPU via False Load Output Predictions (FLOP). Apple was notified of the issues in May and September 2024, respectively. The vulnerabilities, like the previously disclosed iLeakage attack, build on Spectre, arising when speculative execution "backfires," leaving traces of mispredictions in the CPU's microarchitectural state and the cache. Speculative execution refers to a performance optimization mechanism in modern processors that are aimed at predicting the control flow the CPU should take and execute instructions along the branch beforehand. <https://thehackernews.com/2025/01/new-slap-flop-attacks-expose-apple-m.html>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Apple Silicon has been a tough target for attackers, but these new side-channel attacks—SLAP and FLOP—prove that Apple's custom CPU designs are not immune to

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speculative execution flaws. These attacks extend beyond traditional Spectre-style vulnerabilities, and rather than just manipulating control flow predictions, they exploit Apple's unique Load Address and Load Value Predictors to manipulate data flow, which leads to arbitrary computations on sensitive information. This opens a new class of attacks that could leak private data from even secure applications like Safari and Chrome. While Intel and AMD have been patching speculative execution flaws for years, Apple's in-house silicon is now facing similar scrutiny, suggesting that performance-enhancing microarchitectural features continue to introduce exploitable behaviors that are difficult to mitigate without significant performance trade-offs. Software patches can help, but unless Apple redesigns its CPUs with a "Secure by Design" approach, these techniques will likely continue to emerge. For now, users should ensure their devices are running the latest macOS updates, as Apple is likely implementing browser-level mitigations. Enterprise users handling sensitive data should also consider disabling JavaScript in untrusted environments, as speculative execution attacks often leverage JIT-based execution paths in browsers.

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