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OVER-THE-ROAD-BUS INTELLIGENCE AWARENESS DAILY (OTRBIAD) REPORT

February 10, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

5 Hurt, Federal Probe Launched, After MBTA Crash In Somerville

10WJAR, 2/9/2025

[Boston, Massachusetts] A passenger and four MBTA employees were taken to the hospital after a Green Line train hit an out-of-service train early on Sunday. It happened at the East Somerville station around 12:30 am and resulted in shuttle service being used between Boston's North Station and the end of the Green Line's E Branch at Medford/Tufts Station. NBC Boston reports that according to the T, the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the accident. Investigators are expected on Sunday. According to reports, the people hospitalized include a passenger who complained of a neck injury and all four train operators. <https://turnto10.com/news/local/5-hurt-federal-probe-being-launched-after-mbta-crash-in-somerville-mbta-east-somerville-station-green-line>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 31 December 2024, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics released their Transportation Statistics Annual Report (TSAR) 2024 which discusses the current state of the U.S. transportation system as a whole and “documents how the transportation system has changed through economic booms, major recession, and the shock of a pandemic.” The TSAR covers all modes of transportation, including aviation, maritime, pipelines, and private vehicle use, in addition to rail, bus, and large truck. At the time the report was written, much of the information for 2024 had yet to be tallied so the report heavily focuses on trends identified from 2019 through 2023, with particular emphasis on 2022. Regarding transportation incidents in the U.S. in 2022, the TSAR found that “transportation incidents for all modes claimed 44,546 lives in 2022, of which all but 2,032 involved highway motor vehicles.” The report also claimed that “Railroad deaths were just under 1,000 (998) and the highest number since 1998, with trespasser deaths at 718, the highest since at least 1975,” and that “more than 7,500 pedestrians died in traffic incidents in 2022, which is the most since 1980. Transportation injuries in 2022 fell by about 120,000 to 2.4 million, with nearly all (i.e., 99.6 percent) involving highway motor vehicles.” Regarding passenger rail, the TSAR claims incidents resulted in 223 fatalities in 2022, and 210 fatalities in 2023, which represented a substantial jump from the approximate 170 fatalities recorded each year from 2016 through 2021. Despite the increase in transit rail incident fatalities in recent years, the number of transit rail injuries has significantly declined since

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2019. The full TSAR can be found at: https://www.bts.gov/sites/bts.dot.gov/files/2024-12/TSAR-2024_Web_123024-1644.pdf

CTA Green Line Service Disrupted After Apparent Derailment In Englewood; No Injuries Reported *Chicago Sun Times, 2/10/2025*

[Chicago, Illinois] No injuries were reported when a CTA Green Line train stalled after one of its wheels left the track Monday morning in Englewood, according to the CTA and fire officials. The train stopped moving around 2:40 a.m. near 63rd and Halsted streets, temporarily suspending service between 35th-Bronzeville-IIT and 63rd/Cottage Grove and Ashland/63rd, according to CTA. Firefighters were called to the scene to assist, according to Chicago fire department spokesman Larry Langford, who said one of the train's wheels had apparently left the rail. Shuttle buses were operating from Halsted/63rd to Ashland/63rd to provide connecting service in both directions. No further information was immediately available. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/transportation/2025/02/10/cta-green-line-service-disrupted-after-train-stalls-in-englewood>

Charge Made After 'Man With Gun' Approached Train Passengers *BBC, 2/7/2025*

[Belfast, Ireland] A 52-year-old man has been charged with impersonating a police officer and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. He was arrested at a train station in Belfast on Thursday following reports of a man armed with a gun approaching young female passengers. Police said the man, who claimed to be a police officer, approached two teenage girls at the train station in Holywood, County Down, at about 15:30 GMT. He is due to appear at Belfast Magistrates Court on Saturday 8 February. It was reported to police that at the station, the man moved his coat, revealing to both teenage girls what they believed to be a gun tucked in his waistband. The man then boarded the same train carriage as the girls, took a seat next to another teenage girl and placed the weapon on his lap. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce8ypjpy30no>

Pedestrian Dies After Deadly Train Crash In Suffolk, Police Say *WTKR, 2/7/2025*

[Suffolk, Virginia] A train hit and killed a pedestrian early Friday morning, according to police. Police say they were notified by the train operator of the incident around 3:18 a.m. The crash happened in the 200 Block of South Saratoga Street. After crews arrived, they tried to perform life-saving measures, but the pedestrian had already died. The incident led to multiple railroad crossings near South Saratoga Street and Hall Avenue to be closed. The railroad track has since been cleared and all roads have reopened, police say. <https://www.wtkr.com/news/in-the-community/suffolk/deadly-train-collision-kills-pedestrian-in-suffolk-police-say>

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TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

Hundreds of 'Incels' Paid to Take Part in Study Investigating Emerging Terrorism: 'Some Incels Have Done Some Pretty Bad Stuff'

Latin Times, 2/7/2025

[United Kingdom] A government body in the United Kingdom offered hundreds of self-identified "incels", or men who are involuntarily celibate, financial compensation to participate in a survey exploring their behaviors as they relate to violence. The Home Office's Commission for Countering Extremism (CCE) gave men in the US and UK \$20 or £20 in exchange for completing a 40-minute survey exploring incel behaviors, reported the Guardian. In total, 561 men from the US and the UK took part in the study. Some participants refused to complete the payment intake forms for fear of exposure through the misuse of data collected, and another 126 participants opted to donate the compensation they received to Movember, a men's mental health charity. <https://www.latintimes.com/hundreds-incels-paid-take-part-study-investigating-emerging-terrorism-some-incels-have-done-575005>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), which is operated by the U.S. Secret Service, describes the incel movement as "men who feel unable to obtain romantic or sexual relationships with women, to which they feel entitled," and that while not all of those who subscribe to the ideology are violent, "some members express extreme ideologies involving anti-woman hate, sexual objectification of women, and calls for violence targeting women." The first documented act of incel-motivated mass violence occurred in May 2014 when a man posted a YouTube video blaming women for his virginity before carrying out a series of murders near a college in Isla Vista, California. Following the Isla Vista murders, multiple copycat attackers who identified as incels and cited the perpetrator of the Isla Vista murders as their motivation have carried out additional incel motivated mass violence in the U.S. and Canada. These attacks include a shooting at an Oregon community college in October 2015, a vehicle ramming attack in Toronto, Canada in April 2018, and a shooting at a yoga studio in Tallahassee, Florida in November 2018. More recently, a self-identified incel carried out a mass shooting at a shopping mall in Allen, Texas in May 2023. Many perpetrators of mass violence in recent years have expressed and shared incel-related ideology, though their motivations are often attributed to some other form of extremism, and their ties to other extremist groups receive far more attention than their links to the incel movement when the incidents are reported. For example, the motivations behind the Allen, Texas shooting remains unclear, as the perpetrator (who was a self-identified incel) also had far-right related propaganda on him, bore Neo-Nazi tattoos, and had an extensive online history of sharing and bigotry. Some entities, including the International Center for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), consider these acts of mass violence perpetrated by incels as misogynist terrorism, though the label is not consistent throughout Western nations.

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SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

Bronx Sees Decline In Subway Crime As NYPD Ramps Up Transit Patrols

Bronx News, 2/6/2025

[Bronx, New York] The Bronx saw a notable decline in subway crime last month, according to new NYPD data released Wednesday, as the city continues its intensified push for transit safety. Transit crime in the borough dropped by 21.1% in January, with 30 reported incidents compared to 38 during the same period in 2024, according to CompStat, the city's crime-tracking system. The decrease, while significant, lagged behind the citywide decline of 36.4%. Police officials credited the reduction to ongoing efforts by Mayor Eric Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul to bolster law enforcement in the transit system. "January's crime declines are an extraordinary testament to the work of our cops," NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a statement. "Every day, we are analyzing crime numbers and optimizing our deployments to put cops in zones that need them. That's starting to deliver real results."

<https://www.bxtimes.com/subway-crime-in-the-bronx-down-in-january-following-the-citywide-trend/>

Refused: New Light Rail Fare Citations Lack Teeth

KSTP, 2/6/2025

[Minnesota] The presence of unarmed agents in blue uniforms, riding light rail trains in groups of two or three, might be the most visible element of Metro Transit's sweeping reforms to address safety concerns on its system. A core job of those TRIP agents, named after the Transit Rider Investment Program, is to check fares and issue administrative citations to those who do not pay their \$2 fare. But a 5 INVESTIGATES review of every citation issued in the first eight months of the program raises questions about the effectiveness in the program. Legislation decriminalized fare evasion in 2023 and the penalty for riding without a valid fare became more like a parking ticket. Metro Transit recently announced its agents checked more than half a million fares in 2024 and wrote more than 2,000 citations, but many fare evaders continue to avoid accountability, according to an analysis by 5 INVESTIGATES.

<https://kstp.com/kstp-news/refused-new-light-rail-fare-citations-lack-teeth/>

Understanding The Language Of Law Enforcement

Security Magazine, 2/7/2025

Douglas Horsting, Manager of Organized Retail Crime & Special Investigations/Law Enforcement Liaison at Rite Aid, entered the NYPD auxiliary police at the age of 17. During that time, gangs were slicing people with box cutters as an initiation process. The city of New York mandated that an individual must be 18 years of age in order to purchase a box cutter in an attempt to mitigate the situation, and at 17 years old, Horsting was tasked with working undercover to determine who may have been supplying box cutters to underage individuals. ... Eventually, his career path led him to join Rite Aid as an Organized

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Retail Crime Investigator/Law Enforcement Liaison. There, he started by covering six Rite Aid store locations and spearheaded programs to combat organized retail crime. To achieve this goal, Horsting got in touch with local law enforcement agencies. ... By collaborating with local law enforcement, Horsting began to run operations to arrest offenders and charge them accordingly. It began with Horsting's investigations, where he would identify repeat offenders. Once offenders were identified, Horsting would partner with the NYPD to arrest the individuals in question, and with the support from the District Attorney's Office, have the offenders charged appropriately.

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/101333-understanding-the-language-of-law-enforcement>

Regina Bus Drivers Call For Action Amid Rising Violence On Transit

CBC, 2/10/2025

Bus drivers in Regina are raising concerns about a sharp increase in violence on city buses, saying they feel unsafe and unsupported. Data from the Regina Police Service (RPS) says RPS received 202 calls about transit incidents since 2019, a 74 per cent rise from 2019. Meanwhile, RPS said there were 32 reports of physical or verbal violence on transit in 2024, up from nine in 2019 — a 255 per cent increase. In total, 140 charges have been laid since 2019, including 18 violent crime charges last year, RPS says. Sukh Gaimda, a longtime transit driver and president of the union representing city bus operators, said violence and harassment against drivers are becoming more frequent, and often happen without warning. "Every day it's going up, and the most shocking thing is it's always unprovoked and random," Gaimda said in an interview with CBC's The 306 on Wednesday.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/regina-bus-drive-rising-violence-transit-1.7454110>

CYBERSECURITY

Deepseek AI Tools Impersonated By Infostealer Malware On PyPI

Bleeping Computer, 2/3/2025

Threat actors are taking advantage of the rise in popularity of the DeepSeek to promote two malicious infostealer packages on the Python Package Index (PyPI), where they impersonated developer tools for the AI platform. The packages were named "deepseek" and "deepseekai" after the Chinese artificial intelligence startup, developer of the R1 large-language model that recently saw a meteoric surge in popularity. Interestingly, the packages were uploaded by an "aged" account created in June 2023 with no prior activity. According to Positive Technologies researchers who discovered the campaign and reported it to PyPI, the packages posing as Python clients for DeepSeek AI were infostealers that stole data from developers who utilized them. Once executed on the developer's machine, the malicious payload stole user and system data as well as environment variables such as API keys, database credentials, and infrastructure access tokens. <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/deepseek-ai-tools-impersonated-by-infostealer-malware-on-pypi/>

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ANALYST COMMENTARY: Threat actors are utilizing open-source package repositories like PyPI as a prime target for supply chain attacks. In a recent case, they took advantage of DeepSeek's rising popularity, slipping two malicious infostealers onto the platform under names closely resembling legitimate AI developer tools. The use of an aged but previously inactive PyPI account helps threat actors bypass basic trust checks, making the attack more convincing. Of note, this attack used Pipedream for data exfiltration, which is a legitimate automation platform often used by developers for workflow integrations. In this case, Pipedream doubled as a stealthy command-and-control server. By piggybacking on trusted services like this, attackers make it harder for security tools to flag and block their activity. Developers who installed these packages need to assume their credentials are compromised. API keys, authentication tokens, and any infrastructure access credentials should be rotated immediately, and cloud service logs should be reviewed for any suspicious access. This attack is a reminder that package integrity verification needs to become standard practice. Tools like Sigstore can help developers verify the authenticity of dependencies before installation. PyPI acted quickly to remove the malicious packages, but this kind of incident shows an ongoing problem with malicious actors constantly finding new ways to infiltrate the software supply chain. Developers need to remain cautious, double-check package sources, and adopt security measures like least-privilege access and regular dependency audits to reduce risk.

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