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Press Release

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[Metro-North](#)

IMMEDIATE

Metro-North's Emergency Preparedness Exercise Draws From Reality

This Saturday in Yonkers, MTA Metro-North Railroad and the City of Yonkers will conduct an emergency preparedness exercise that is more like a thrilling crime story than a train accident.

The drill scenario goes like this: A Hudson Line train with 250 customers aboard is being patrolled by two MTA police officers. One officer's radiation detection device "goes off" as he passes a customer. When the officers try to interview the suspicious customer, the suspect knocks them down and runs off but is quickly captured and wrestled to the ground.

"These exercises are critical to developing the skills responders need to deal with new challenges, such as the potential for hazardous materials, panicked customers and injuries," said Metro-North President Peter A. Cannito. "These drills are observed and critiqued and are a good learning tool."

"These drills not only provide our responders with the training they need, they also reassure the public that our police and fire departments and other agencies are prepared to handle emergency situations should they arise, and that's important. Thousands of Yonkers residents ride Metro-North trains on a daily basis because they know it's safe and reliable," added Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone.

Metro-North conducts annual emergency preparedness exercise in various localities to give local responders and railroad personnel practice operating in the unique railroad environment, especially the presence of energized third rail and catenary wires.

This scenario differs from previous disaster drills that typically involve a collision, such as a train striking an automobile. In this exercise, issues of a threatening individual, the potential of radiological hazards and crowd psychology will present new challenges to responders.

Normal train service will not be affected while this scenario is played out in the area of Glenwood Station. More than 100 Metro-North employees and others from local Yonkers organizations have volunteered to represent "customers" on the train involved in the drill. A train evacuation will be practiced.

Drill participants include several Metro-North Departments, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department, the City of Yonkers Police and Fire Departments, the Yonkers Office of Emergency Management and Empress Ambulance.

All parties, including media will assemble at the Riverside High School at 565 Warburton Avenue, in Yonkers for registration. A valid photo ID is required. The exercise begins at 9:00 a.m.