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Press Release

August 23, 2010

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

MTA LIRR RESTORES TRAIN SERVICE IN TIME FOR PM RUSH

SMOKE CONDITION CAUSED BY CABLE FIRE DAMAGES KEY SIGNAL TOWER JUST EAST OF JAMAICA STATION

MTA Long Island Rail Road restored service for Monday's PM rush period after an electrical fire at a key signal tower forced the Railroad to suspend service on trains passing through Jamaica.

LIRR President Helena E. Williams said the cause of the fire, which occurred shortly after 10 AM at Hall Tower just east of Jamaica Station, is still under investigation. The incident led to the suspension of service on 10 of the Railroad's 11 branches. Only Port Washington trains were unaffected since trains on that branch do not pass through Jamaica.

Under an emergency service plan, the LIRR's is providing about 60% of its regular service during the evening rush, so customers are advised to expect canceled trains, delays and no connections at Jamaica Station.

"On a normal weekday, we have about 100,000 customers leaving Manhattan on a between 4 PM and 8 PM on 120 trains," said Williams. "Today, we will be providing about 60% of service that we usually provide."

Williams said the service from Penn Station would consist of dedicated trains making local stops to Huntington/Port Jefferson, Ronkonkoma/Greenport, Long Beach, Babylon and Montauk.

To avoid overcrowding at Penn Station, Williams said MTA Police would carefully regulate the number of people entering the LIRR section of the terminal, allowing customers in as trains become available.

Crowding is also a concern at Jamaica and Williams said LIRR is purposely running Hempstead and Far Rockaway-bound trains only from Atlantic Terminal in downtown Brooklyn, which can be reached by subway. There will be no Hempstead and Far Rockaway service from Penn Station.

LIRR customers were also advised of service changes if heading for the following destinations:

- Oyster Bay: Travel to Mineola for connections to all Oyster Bay branch stops.
- West Hempstead: Travel to Valley Stream where buses will be available to take them onto to their home stations.
- Patchogue, Speonk and Montauk: Customers can connect to those trains at Babylon.

Since regular service continues to Port Washington, Williams said customers might want to consider taking that branch if they can make alternate arrangements for the remainder of their trip home.

Williams said the LIRR would continue to issue service updates through the evening, including an assessment of service availability for Tuesday's AM rush.

Hall Tower is a key signal tower through which trains are switched to appropriate tracks into and out of Jamaica Station. With its electrical signal system disabled, trains can only proceed through Hall using a manual system employed to ensure maximum safety during an emergency such as this.

Williams said LIRR station personnel are available at Penn Station, Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn and Jamaica Station to assist customers with service information. The LIRR appreciates the patience and understanding of our customers.

The LIRR anticipates that there will some impact to Tuesday morning's AM Rush and will advises customers of that service plan later this evening. Customers should monitor news media reports as well as updates on the LIRR's website (www.mta.info/lirr), Facebook, Twitter and its customer email service alerts.

Customers can also contact the LIRR's 24-hour Travel Information Center in Suffolk County at 631-231-LIRR, in Nassau County at 516-822-LIRR or in New York City at 718-217-LIRR. The Travel Information Center's TDD telephone number for the hearing impaired is 718-558-3022.