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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

### 15th Annual Chairman's Safety Awards Recipients Announced

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) recognized agency-wide contributions to a safer work environment at the 15th annual Chairman's Safety Awards earlier this week. At a ceremony in Grand Central Terminal's Vanderbilt Hall, MTA leaders recognized team achievements within the MTA and its operating agencies.

"Thousands of MTA employees perform their duties in areas far removed from the security of a desk and the fact that they work day in and day out recording a minimal number of injuries illustrates their dedication to safety, which is the number one priority at the MTA," MTA Chairman & CEO Joseph J. Lhota said. "Even though we've made major strides to reduce accidents and lost time over the years, we should never make the mistake of letting improved statistics lull us into complacency. We need to recognize that when it comes to safety, we must always be vigilant."

"The safety of both our employees and customers will always be our top priority as we continue our commitment to making our workplace 100 percent injury-free," said MTA Chief Operating Officer Nuria Fernandez. "To all award recipients, the MTA is proud to have great employees like all of you, and once again, thank you all for your dedication to safety at the MTA."

For employee safety achievements, Gold Awards were presented to teams in New York City Transit, MTA Bus, Long Island Rail Road, Metro-North Railroad and MTA Bridges and Tunnels. NYC Transit's Department of Subways received a Gold Award for its implementation of *FASTRACK* which has increased safety and productivity exponentially. NYC Transit's Department of Buses was commended for its Bus Operator Action Committee which expedited the final testing of protective bus operator partitions.

Another Gold Award recipient, MTA Bus' Zero-Tolerance Cell Phone Performance Management and Communications Awareness group, achieved an astounding 82% reduction in the number of cell phone violations issued. The program is being recognized nationwide by other transit agencies looking to achieve similar results.

Both Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad received Gold Awards for instituting safety committees that have resulted in significant injury decreases of 45% and 42% respectively across the workplace. LIRR's committee focused on safety issues relating to infrastructure and rolling stock. MNR's committee introduced a safety hotline and safety advisories of potential workplace hazards. The railroad operations were able to attain these results through a partnership with eight different unions and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Bridges and Tunnels, by listening to the safety concerns of employees, saw a 42% drop in injuries on duty. MTA Revenue Control, which processes payments for MTA operations, was recognized for its safety training facility that resulted in only one lost-time accident last year. Other award recipients are listed below.

#### Silver Employee Safety Award Winners:

*NYCT:*

Department of Car Equipment Initiatives  
Facilities Operation Safety Team  
Safety Culture Task Force

*MTA Bus:*

Location Safety Officers Resource Support and Injury Management Program

*LIRR:*

Management Intervention Program

#### Bronze Employee Safety Award Winners:

*NYCT:*

Response to Hurricane Irene team

*LIRR:*

Right of Way Clean Up team  
Right of Way Task Force

*MNR:*

Maintenance of Equipment at Grand Central Terminal team

*B&T:*

Tool Box Safety Meetings team

*Capital Construction:*

Lower Manhattan Projects team