



SMRT Corporation Ltd
251 North Bridge Road
Singapore 179102
Tel : 65 6331 1000
Fax : 65 6339 4229
www.smrt.com.sg

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SECURITY MEASURES AT SMRT DEPOTS

1. On 17 May 2010, the perimeter of Changi Depot was breached and one of our trains was painted with graffiti.
2. Ms Saw Phaik Hwa, CEO and President, SMRT said: "We deeply regret that a serious security lapse occurred in our depot. At SMRT, the security of our transport network is of prime importance in ensuring the safety of our commuters. Since the breach, we have taken immediate steps to strengthen our security to prevent recurrence. I would like to reiterate that every single individual at SMRT must take responsibility for the security and safety of every commuter as well as the entire system. This incident also reaffirms the importance of the public's participation and support in reporting any suspicious sightings in our system, to assist us to handle them expeditiously."
3. Immediately on discovery of the breach, SMRT reviewed the security measures in all our depots together with the authorities. All personnel of the security companies, employed by SMRT, have been instructed to step up vigilance. The number of security personnel and patrols at each depot has been increased.
4. To deter and detect intruders, we have improved visibility along the perimeter and will further reinforce the fence by installing concertina wires around the perimeter of all our depots.
5. More CCTV cameras will be installed to increase the coverage of perimeters and to visually inspect the trains as they are launched from the depots daily.
6. Furthermore, any intruders who attempt to sabotage the trains run the risk of being electrocuted, as the power rails that run along the tracks in our depots are 'live' throughout the day.

Time lapse in reporting the incident

7. On 17 May, staff noticed the graffiti on the train but did not sound the alarm, as it was done artistically and mistaken for an advertisement. The alarm was raised at 1600 hours on 19 May by our maintenance staff when the train was recalled to the workshop for scheduled maintenance. A police report was made immediately, and our own investigation led to the discovery of the security breach of the fence.
8. With lessons learnt from the graffiti incident, SMRT staff and security personnel have been briefed to be more vigilant and to exercise stricter scrutiny.

Media Release

Security on SMRT network

9. SMRT works closely and regularly with national security and public transport authorities to review, strengthen and maintain robust and relevant security arrangements throughout our network of depots, interchanges and train stations.
10. On a daily basis, staff conduct checks on our trains before they are launched into the network. These inspections cover safety features such as brakes, doors, sealed switches, circuit breakers and fire extinguishers, as well as air-conditioning, lights and PA systems. These preparation and radio checks are conducted within the trains before they leave the depots to ensure that they are safe for passenger service.
11. After the Madrid and London incidents, the public transport system is viewed as potential targets for terrorist activities. SMRT worked closely with Public Transport Security Committee, which is chaired by Land Transport Authority (LTA) and include senior members from Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Home Affairs, LTA, the Police and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to increase security measures in MRT stations, trains, buses and bus interchanges. SMRT engaged security personnel in our network and many CCTV cameras have since been installed in our stations, buses and depots.
12. Our staff are trained to handle emergency situations including Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive threats. We regularly conduct emergency drills and participate in major exercises organised by the Police, SCDF and LTA.
13. We have 82 MRT and LRT stations across Singapore, serving 1.5 million passengers daily and five train depots covering more than 82 hectares (equivalent of 106 football fields). With such an expansive system, it is necessary to involve the public through our engagement programmes to assist us in boosting vigilance by reporting suspicious persons or articles. In addition, the public have partnered us in the SMRT Community Emergency Preparedness Programme which equips them with the knowledge and capability to detect potential threats and respond to emergency situations.
14. To ensure our security systems are updated throughout our network, security audits are conducted regularly by SMRT security staff as well as security agencies. Since the London and Madrid incidents, we have conducted audits in 2005 and 2007. As a result, we improved security through the deployment of security personnel, controlled access management, enhanced lighting at critical areas, additional CCTV cameras, and hardened barriers at potential points of incursion.

Future actions

15. Mr Choy Kin Chong, Head, SMRT Security & Emergency Planning said: "Each of our depot spans a large area – for example, Changi Depot is about 25 hectares, approximately the size of 32 football fields, and has a perimeter fence of about 3km. Due to each depot's size, there is a need to rely on technology to further improve security. SMRT is working closely with the authorities to determine, establish and implement more measures to further strengthen security in our depots, including additional surveillance and intrusion detection systems, to detect and prevent future breaches."

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