

RTD and Aurora first responders to conduct light rail incident drills for R Line

DENVER, November 1, 2016 – The Regional Transportation District (RTD), along with city of Aurora emergency first responders and other local agencies, will conduct a light rail emergency drill on Saturday, November 5, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Fitzsimons light rail station for the future R Line. The station is located on Fitzsimons Parkway east of Peoria Street in Aurora.

The drill will be a simulated exercise to teach first responders how to interact with light rail vehicles, including scene assessment, electrical systems, triage of patients and other potential issues. The training will allow the agencies to evaluate agency response procedures, and to coordinate communication and response strategies in the event of an actual emergency along the R Line, which extends from Peoria Street to Lincoln Avenue.



The simulated accident will take place at the west end of the Fitzsimons Light Rail Station. Beginning at 10 p.m., Friday, November 4 and lasting until 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 5, Fitzsimons Parkway will be closed from Peoria Street to Victor Street, and traffic will be detoured to Colfax Avenue. During the dirll, access will not be allowed on the portion of Sand Creek Park trail nearest to Fitzsimons Station.

Fire trucks and ambulances will be staged in the southbound lanes of Fitzsimons. Signs will be posted to alert the community that training is in progress. No smoke or pyrotechnics will be used.

For media who are interested in observing, there will be limited access due to safety reasons. For information on access to the site and parking, please contact Lisa Trujillo at Lisa.Trujillo@rte-denver.com or at 303-299-2673.

“Safety is RTD’s number one priority and we have an excellent safety record that we want to maintain as we prepare to open the line,” _____ said. “Whether we are performing construction work or testing safety procedures, our safety message is the same. Please drive carefully through the area.”

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FasTracks is RTD's 2004 voter-approved transit expansion plan to build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District. For more information, visit www.rtd-denver.com.

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