

October 6, 2013

The NTSB was notified at 2:30 am EDT of a fatal accident on WMATA's Red Line between Union Station and Judiciary Square in Washington, DC involving track workers replacing rail. One contractor was killed and two WMATA employees were injured. After evaluation of the available information regarding the accident the NTSB has decided not to launch any investigators to the accident site. Due to a lapse in funding, NTSB staff are furloughed. The agency can only engage in those activities necessary to address imminent threats to the safety of human life or for the protection of property. After careful consideration it was determined that this accident did not meet the criteria for exempting employees from furlough. The NTSB has requested that WMATA provide their investigation report to the NTSB for evaluation in the future.

Further, the NTSB public affairs staff has been furloughed therefore the NTSB will not be conducting press conferences, issuing press releases or responding to reporters' questions on this accident.