

Safety Advisory 22-4 Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit January 25, 2023

Office of Transit Safety and Oversight Federal Transit Administration

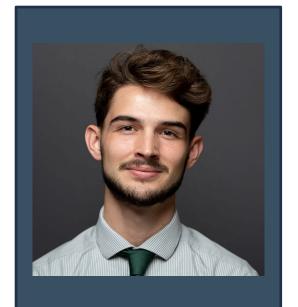


Speaker Introductions



Program Analyst Federal Transit Administration

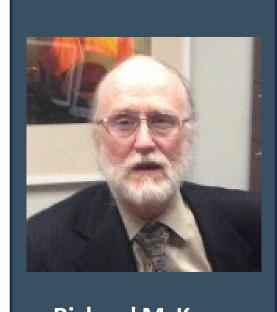
Washington, DC



Ethan Novak
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Speaker Introductions



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Chief of Suicide Prevention Branch SAMHSA

Rockville, MD



Stacey Palosky

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Oakland, CA

Webinar Purpose & Agenda

The purpose of this session is to provide transit agencies:

- An overview of Safety Advisory 22-4 (SA 22-4) issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 regarding suicide prevention signage and messaging
- Information and resources available for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Insight into BART's current suicide prevention initiatives

Meeting Agenda

- Overview of SA 22-4
- Recommended Action
- Presentation from Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Presentation from San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART)
- Q&A



Question 1

From 2011 – 2019, what percentage of rail transit fatalities were due to suicide?

A: 24%

B: 39%

C: 52%

D: 65%

Question 1

From 2011 – 2019, what percentage of rail transit fatalities were due to suicide?

Answer – C: 52%

Source: FTA Report No. 0227

Question 2

What mode of transportation experiences the highest number of suicide-related fatalities?

A: Light Rail

B: Heavy Rail

C: Commuter Rail

D: Streetcar Rail

Question 2

What mode of transportation experiences the most suicide-related fatalities?

Answer – B: Heavy Rail

Question 3

Which time(s) of day do suicide-related fatalities or injuries most frequently occur? (Select more than one)

A: 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

B: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

C: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

D: 9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Question 3

What time(s) of day do suicide-related fatalities or injuries most frequently occur?

Answer - B: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

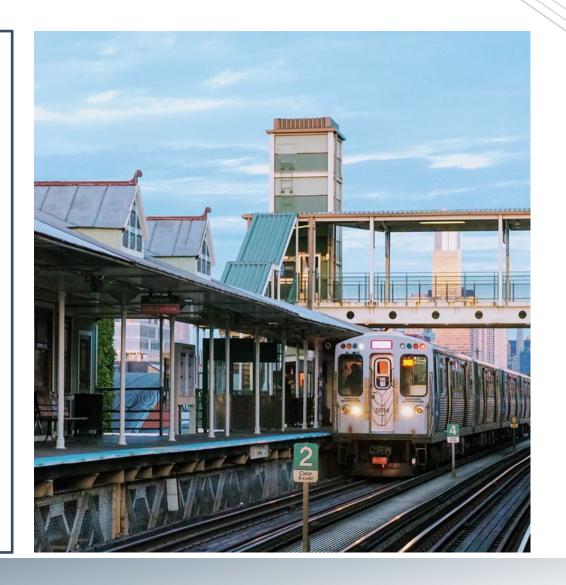
C: 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Source: FTA Report No. 0227

Safety Advisory 22-4 Overview and Purpose

Safety Advisory Overview

- Date: Published in the Federal Register on December
 7, 2022
- Safety Advisory Number: 22-4
- Audience: Transit Agencies
- Purpose: FTA encourages transit agencies to implement, update, or expand suicide prevention signage and messaging campaigns that apply best practices for reducing suicide attempts.
 Additionally, FTA encourages incorporating general mental health awareness on public-facing media, partnering with suicide prevention organizations, and assessing suicide event and crisis center data through Safety Risk Management and Safety Assurance processes.



Safety Advisory 22-4 Takeaways

Suicide is the leading cause of fatalities on transit

Suicide has an emotional and psychological impact on everyone the event impacts: family, friends, transit workers, transit leadership, and the community

Research suggests that suicide prevention signage is an intervention that can save lives

Transit agencies should consider installing or updating existing suicide prevention signage along operating routes in highly visible areas

Suicide on Public Transit

Facts on Suicide

Suicide is a leading cause of fatalities on public transit

150

71%

COVID-19

The average number of suicide attempts per year on or by transit over the past five years

The percentage of suicide attempts reported inside a rail station

The pandemic has exacerbated risk factors associated with suicidal behavior

Source: National Transit Database (July 2019); BMC Psychology, Pathirathna et. al (2022)

Suicide's Impact on Wellbeing

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

- 13 to 23 percent of transportation accident survivors develop symptoms of psychological distress
- Transit operators face significant amounts of distress in response to suicide events

Depression

 Major depressive episodes are a common response to trauma and may occur in survivors in response to a suicide event

Source: Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) Research Report 233

Suicide's Impact on Agency Operations

Impact to Operations

- Suicide on transit impacts everyone involved, including transit operators
- In addition to impacts on operator well-being, suicide events may impact transit agencies' daily operations
- These impacts may include:
 - Missed work hours to recover from the shock, which is especially relevant in times of employee shortages and understaffing
 - Time to complete required station maintenance after an event
 - Difficulty in recruiting and maintaining workforce

Source: Transit Advisory Committee for Safety (TRACS) Report 18-03; TCRP Research Report 233

Signage as an Intervention Tool for Transit Agencies

Signage can be effective in the immediate moment to talk down or deter suicide



SA 22-4 recommends that signage include the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and suicide prevention messaging



San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART): BART partnered with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline in 2015 for a signage campaign, resulting in the helpline receiving 20 to 50 calls per year from transit stations since the campaign began



Toronto Transit Commission: Toronto's *Crisis Link* is a suicide prevention program that installed posters on every subway platform. It's estimated the suicide rate dropped by 46% since 2019



Image 1: BART (2015)

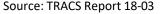




Image 2: Toronto's Crisis Link (2019)

Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

Signage

- Display the national Suicide & Crisis Lifeline phone number (988) and the local crisis center or local public transit helpline phone number
- Direct patrons to nearby public phones, if available
- Present information in all languages frequently spoken within the jurisdiction
- Consider language, word choice, and other demographic risk factors, like age and gender, within the jurisdiction for signage and messaging campaigns

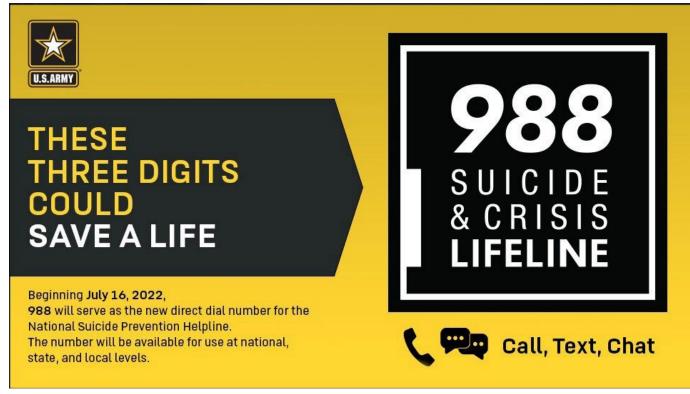


Image 3: An example of generic 988 messaging from the U.S. Army (2022)

Source: FTA Report No. 0227

Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

Mental Health Awareness

- Convey anti-suicide and general mental health awareness information on public-facing media, such as bus advertisement space, station booths, bus shelters, fare cards, and vending machine screen savers
- Partner with suicide prevention organizations, including community mental health organizations, to coordinate mental health and suicide prevention messaging and resources
- Place suicide prevention signage in highly visible areas that pose the greatest risk for suicide
- Assess and monitor the effectiveness of different signage approaches and make use of available data to guide transit agency activities on suicide prevention

You're Not Alone CALL US 1.800.273.8255 THE PORT AUTHORITY

Image 4: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's NJ Hopeline (2013)

Source: FTA Report No. 0227

Factors to Consider

Key Considerations

Demographics, design, data and data limitation, community input

Implementation Questions to Ask at Your Transit Agency

Is existing signage updated with new 988 number? What numbers besides 988 should you include?

Where should your signs be placed in the station?

Does the sign appear in languages that are commonly spoken in the area?

How does your signage communicate to high-risk demographic groups?

Is there cell signal, free Wi-Fi, or public phone access at sign locations?

What are opportunities to use both static and digital signage? Is there a difference in impact?

How could suicide prevention messaging be used outside of a rail station? On a bus? Or at a bus stop?

Source: TCRP Research Report 233

Discussion & Next Steps

FTA Safety Advisory 22-4: Suicide Prevention Signage on Public Transit

https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-andprograms/safety/fta-safety-advisory-22-4-suicideprevention-signage-public-transit



Contact Information

Office of System Safety

Federal Transit Administration

FTASystemSafety@dot.gov

(202) 366-1783



TRANSIT.DOT.GOV

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

988 Public Messaging

January 25, 2023



Agenda

- The Need for 988
- 988 Vision and How it Works
- 988 Partner Toolkit
- Examples of 988 in Use



The Need for 988

TOO MANY PEOPLE ACROSS THE U.S. EXPERIENCE SUICIDAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT AND **CARE THEY NEED**

In 2021

Nearly 900,000 youth aged 12-17 and 1.7 million adults attempted suicide.

There was approximately one death by suicide every 11 minutes

For people aged 10–14 and 25–34 years, suicide was the second-leading cause of death

More than 105,000 people died from drug overdoses



Vision for 988 and Crisis Services

Someone to talk to. Someone to respond. A safe place for help.



988 Lifeline:

An important step towards achieving part of that vision – someone to talk to.

Crisis Care System:

A robust system that provides the crisis care needed anywhere in the country

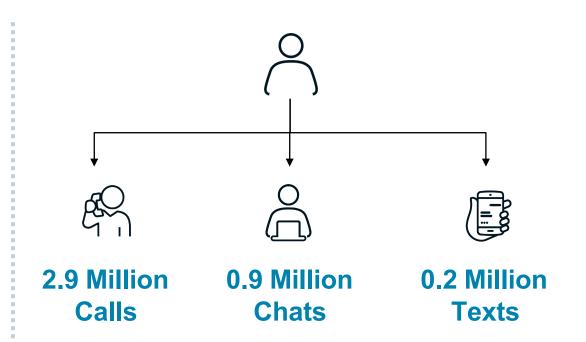
How The 988 Lifeline Works

In FY22, the Lifeline received roughly 4 million contacts

People who **call the 988 Lifeline** are given three options:

- Press 1 to connect with the Veterans Crisis Line
- Press 2 to connect with the Spanish Subnetwork
- Press 3 to connect with LGBTQ+ support for people under age 25
- Remain on the line and be connected to a local crisis center; if local crisis center is unable to answer, the caller is routed to a national backup center

People who **text/chat the Lifeline** are currently connected to crisis centers equipped to respond to texts and chats



More people are getting connected to care than ever before

The 988 Lifeline data for December 2022, showed an **increase** in overall volume compared to December 2021. December 2022 includes contacts from the LGBTQ+ Pilot.

The 988 Lifeline answered **172,164** more contacts (calls, chats and texts) and significantly improved how quickly contacts were answered.

The average speed to answer across all contacts decreased from **172** seconds to **44** seconds.

In December 2022 vs. December 2021, calls answered increased by **48%**, chats answered increased by **263%**, and texts answered increased by **1445%**.



988 Partner Communication Efforts







Goal: Coordinated and Aligned Communication About 988

Driving a Common Narrative

We recognize the need to speak with one voice to ensure there is a clear understanding about what 988 is and how it will work.

Role of Partners Across the Country

We encourage building upon the SAMHSA messages and FAQs with your state, local, territory, tribal, or community coalitions, to meet the needs of your specific audiences.

SAMHSA 988 Webpage

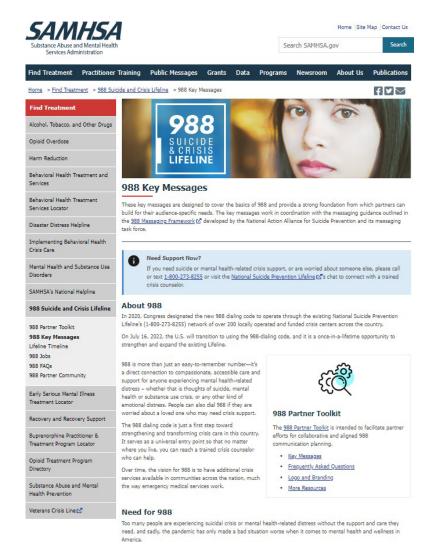
ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR 988 RESOURCES

- URL: www.samhsa.gov/988
- ABOUT 988
- PARTNER TOOLKIT
- PERFORMANCE METRICS
- LIFELINE HISTORY
- JOBS: <u>www.samhsa.gov/988jobs</u>
- FUNDING NOTICES



PARTNER TOOLKIT ASSETS AS OF JAN 2023

- KEY MESSAGES
- <u>FAQS</u> (Adding/updating as needed over time)
- LOGOS & BRAND GUIDANCE
- SOCIAL MEDIA SHAREABLES
- PRINT MATERIALS
- END CARDS FOR MEDIA
- SAMPLE RADIO PSA SCRIPTS
- BRANDED PHOTOS
- PLAYBOOKS



Current Print Materials:

- Wallet Cards (English/Spanish)
- Magnets (English/Spanish)
- Posters (English/Spanish)
- Stickers (English/Spanish)
- Safety Plans (English only)

Coming Soon

- Suicide Warning Signs Notecards
 - Youth and Adults Separate
- Yard Signs
- Reasons to Call 988 (social media)

Printable Materials

These 988 printable materials have been created for use by governments, states, territories, tribes, crisis centers, and partners to educate and outreach about 988. SAMHSA provides organizations an ability to order limited supplies from the SAMHSA store. If you need larger orders than we are able to send to you, you can use the printer-ready files to make your own. For those of you who need just a few copies of an item, you can print those using the simple PDF download.

SAMHSA expects print materials to be available for ordering in late July. We will regularly update the SAMHSA Store links when products arrive.

Wallet Cards

The following business-sized wallet cards help publicize the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



Wallet Card with Image (2 sided, 3.5 in x 2 in) Wallet Card with Image (2 sided, 3.5 in x 2 in)

- Downloadable in English (PDF | 254 KB)
- Printer-ready file in English (PDF | 723 KB)
- Order from the SAMHSA Store

- Downloadable in Spanish (PDF 297 KB)
- Printer-ready file in Spanish (PDF | 1.1 MB)
- Order from the SAMHSA Store

URL:

https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit

- 1. Go to accordion labeled Printable Material
- 2. Click on "Order from the SAMHSA Store"
- 3. Store is no longer allowing you to ask for orders above the minimums as in the past.



988 Partner Toolkit: End Cards for Media

When news articles, entertainment programming, or other media material includes content addressing suicide, mental health, or emotional distress, please use one of the end card options available from the 988 Partner Toolkit to share 988 crisis supports with readers and viewers, especially those who may need help or be in crisis.

Option A: With Horizontal Logo & Text

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

Option B: With Square Logo & Text



If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org

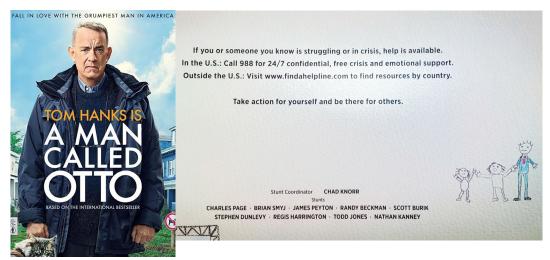
Option C: Text only (no logo)

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org



Examples of 988 in Use

988



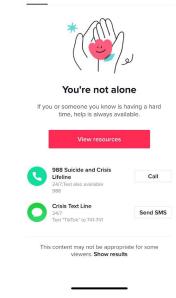






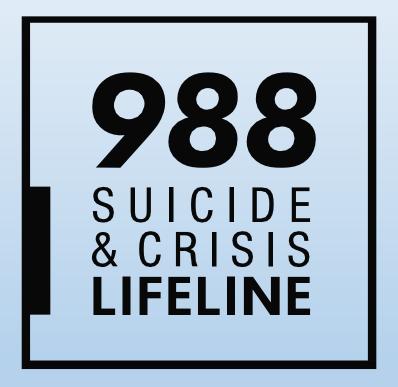






Services Administration

Thank you!



And you can email questions to us at

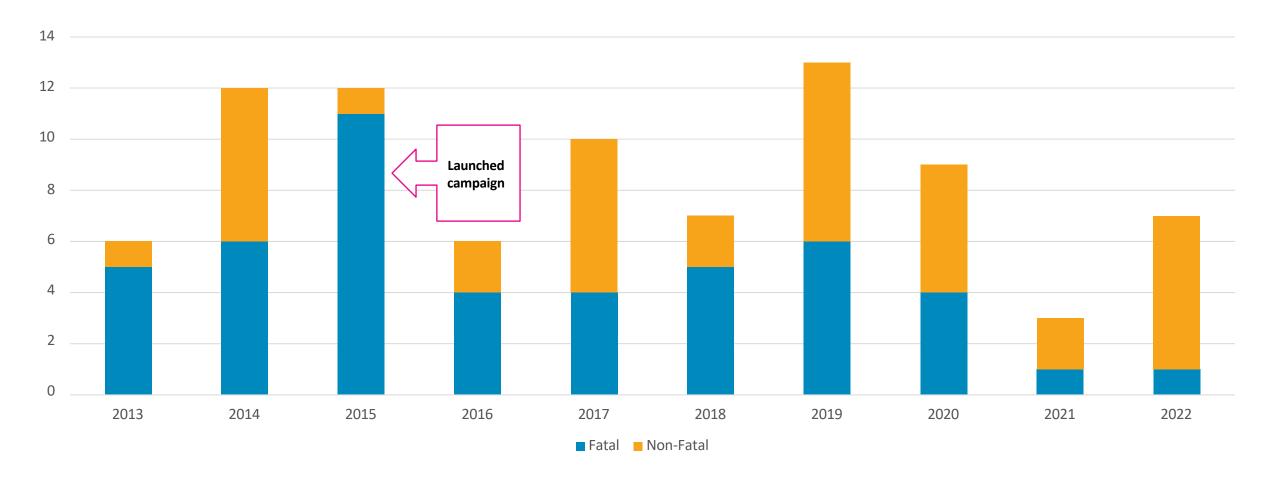
988Team@samhsa.hhs.gov

Suicide Prevention Strategies

Alicia Trost, BART Chief Communications Officer FTA Webinar, January 2023



Suicide Data: Fatal and Non-Fatal (injured or no-contact)





Develop Partnerships with Experts

• BART asked the Bay Area Suicide & Crisis Intervention Alliance to guide us in developing a plan.

- They advised us:
 - Install platform screen doors
 - Post large signs with the crisis number
 - Put the crisis number on the back of paper tickets
 - Change the language we use with the public to prevent contagion (copycat suicides)
 - Provide special training for frontline staff on how to recognize and help a person in crisis; supply station agent booths with crisis wallet cards



If you are struggling emotionally or thinking of suicide, call

1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

Free and confidential.

2015





If you are struggling emotionally or thinking of suicide call or text

988

Free and confidential.

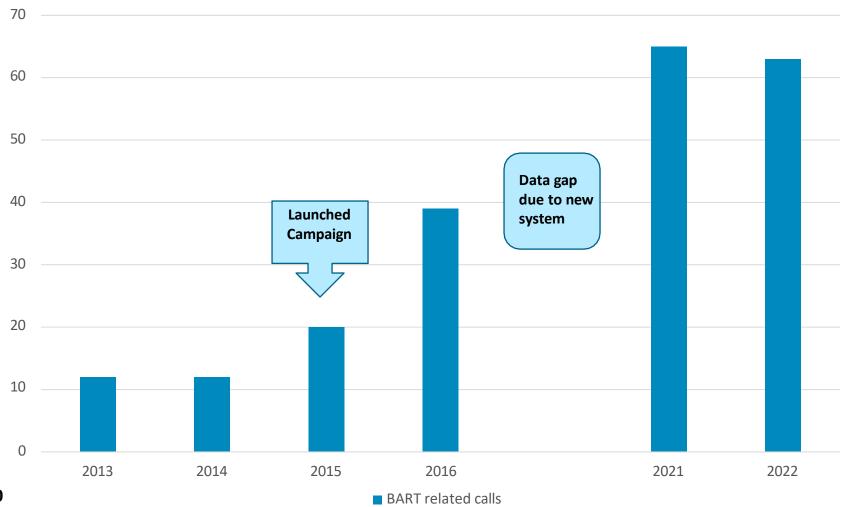
2022

- Placed on the end of each platform AND on the trackway wall
- Size: 48" X 48"
- Didn't use tool kit designs as not to look like another advertisement



BART Related Lifeline Calls

BART Related Lifeline Calls



- 2021- 4 high-risk calls
- 2022- 3 high-risk calls



Update Language

- BART Service Advisories:
 - "person under a train" to "major medical emergency"
- Spokespeople are to follow a script
- Social media posts offers transparency without triggering words and include the crisis line
- Posted recommended news media guidelines on our website



Spokesperson Script

- Crews are responding to a Major Medical Emergency at xxx station.
- A person was on the tracks for an unknown reason when a train approached, and a collision may have occurred.
- List service impacts.

(Once confirmed with police)

- Based on witness accounts, there is no foul play suspected.
- The person was in crisis and intentionally entered the trackway.



Spokesperson Script

Never say:

- Person under a train
- Passenger or Trespasser strike
- An unauthorized person (this causes confusion with the public and media)
- "Jumped in front of a train" instead say a fatality involving a person on the tracks
- "Was hit by a train" instead say a person entered the trackway and a collision occurred, it is ok to say the person was in crisis

Policy:

Do not go on camera or do radio interviews about these incidents



Social Media Posts

Quote tweet the service advisory with:

This incident is a fatality.

Police say there was no foul play, and the person intentionally entered the track.

Our thoughts are with this person, our train operator + responding crews.

If you are struggling emotionally or in crisis, there is help. Call or text 988.

We are in service recovery.

We want to express our apologies for this service disruption. Our thoughts are with those affected.

We ask that all related media reports include this information: If you are struggling emotionally or in crisis, there is help. Call or text 988.

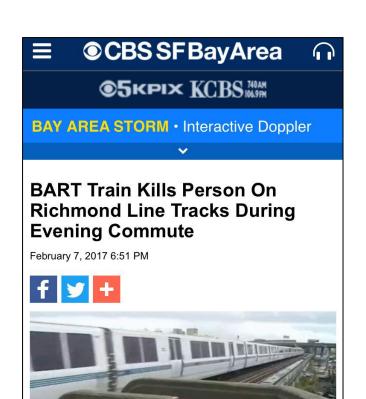


Recommended News Media Guidelines

- Do not provide detailed information on where a suicide occurred and do not show detailed pictures of the locations where the suicides occurred.
- Do not provide vivid depictions and details of the event. This can create imagery that a vulnerable individual may relate to and consider acting upon. This includes details about behaviors immediately before train-person collisions.
- Do not include an image of a train. Although including an image of a train may seem reasonable, doing so depicts the manner of suicide, which is strongly discouraged.
- Be careful with the wordings of headlines.
- Be careful with all of the words that are used in the story.
- Always include information for those seeking help, specifically mention 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.









BAY AREA // EAST BAY

East Bay BART station reopens after 'major medical emergency' involving fatality

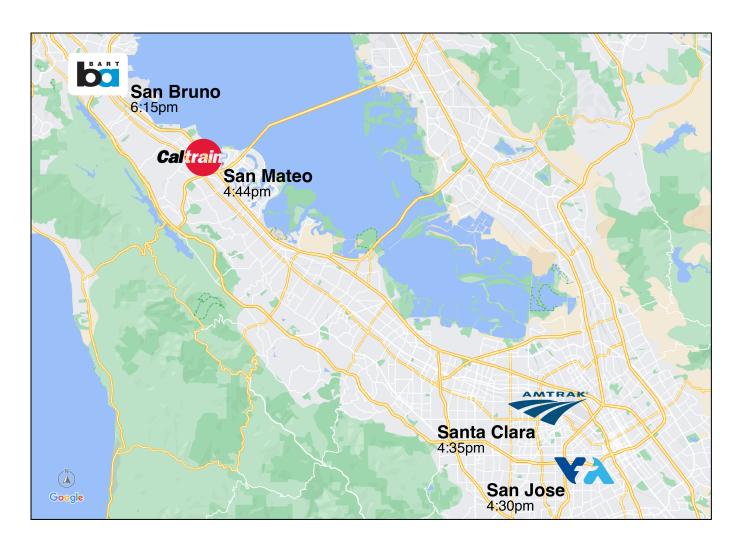


Dominic Fracassa

March 16, 2022 | Updated: March 16, 2022 3:16 p.m.



Clusters and Contagion



October 13, 2015 Timeline

4:30pm A pedestrian was fatally struck by a VTA light rail train in San Jose.

4:35pm An Amtrak train struck a pickup truck at grade crossing in Santa Clara.

4:44pm A man on the railroad tracks was struck by a train at the San Mateo Caltrain station.

NEWS COVERAGE

6:15pm A person on the tracks was struck by a train at the San Bruno BART station.



Possible Suicide Contagion

• September 19, 2022 (first day of rail safety events in the SF Bay Area)

Person hit by train at North Berkeley BART station

Officials said the person was in a "crisis" when they entered the trackway

• September 16, 2022

Motorcyclist dead after being ejected onto BART tracks, hit by train in Oakland; service restored



VIDEO: BART passengers inspire, save man who jumped onto tracks





12 hours later

Person struck by BART train, killed in East Bay





Frontline worker training

Warning Signs (verbal and physical cues)

- How are they acting?
 - Are they agitated, nervous, pacing, are they near the edge of the platform?
 - Are they watching multiple trains go by and not getting on one?
- What are they saying?
 - Are they talking about jumping, are they crying? Do they feel trapped?
- What is their mood?
 - Are they sad, angry, distraught, or staring blankly into the trackway?



Frontline worker training

Make connection; Ask a Question; Save a Life

What do you say?

- Are you okay?
- Do you want to talk?
- Are you thinking about suicide?
- Can you come upstairs with me?
- I'm going to call someone to help you
- I'm going to stay with you until help gets here.

How do you say it?

- With compassion
- With empathy
- With no judgment
- In a calm voice
- Emphasize there is help

What do you do?

- Contact police (yourself or someone else)
- Do not be afraid of speaking in front of the person, they already have the idea, and it won't push them toward making a decision
- Do NOT leave the person alone
- Have power to 3rd rail turned off

Take care of yourself; utilize resources and peer support; near misses are just as traumatic



Frontline Worker Training

"Is everything OK?" Zedd recalled.

"And he said, 'No, I'm just tired. I'm tired of everything'

And I asked him to tell me about what was going on with him.

"I just sat with him, and kept listening to his story," Zedd said. "I told him, 'This is not the way to go. We can get somebody out here to take you to a place to stay, to get you some help. I told him that he mattered, and also that his actions would affect a lot of people, people who would be hurt, who would be traumatized, by what he was trying to do."



Zedd listened to the man tell his story and then walked down to the de-energized trackway to help the man out of the trackway.

The man, now calmed, came out of the trackway. BART Police arrived soon and took the man to receive a mental health assessment.





