



Commuter train crash kills eight in London

BY MARA BELLABY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station during the height of the morning rush hour Tuesday, killing eight people and injuring at least 160.

Several cars derailed in the residential Ladbroke Grove area of west London. "It is a tangled and difficult scene," Deputy Police Commissioner Andy Trotter said.

Passenger Stuart Allen said the crash "almost felt like a dream."

"I was thinking, 'God, please don't let me die,'" he said. "You've got flames. You've got smoke. You've got a big bang. You've just got to think the worst."

British Transport Police said eight people were known killed and at least 160 hurt. Authorities said 128 people had been taken to hospitals, 21 of them with severe injuries.

Nearly six hours after the 8:11 a.m. (3:11 EDT) crash, the last three surviving trapped passengers were freed, police said.

"We believe there are a number of

bodies still trapped in the wreckage, but it is impossible to gauge the number of those on board," said Tony Thompson of the British Transport Police.

"The scene is one of twisted metal and burned-out carriages, which makes the search a long and careful process," he said. "But we are satisfied there are no live casualties left inside."

Ambulance and fire crews, police and rail workers swarmed around the overturned and twisted rail cars for hours, locating and freeing passengers.

Other passengers, some with cuts and bruises, said they were also able to help people out of overturned cars. Emergency officials were treating the injured at a supermarket near the crash scene.

"There were really badly hurt people, badly burned people. Some people have been impaled by seats," passenger Amelia Bane said.

The collision involving the two main-line trains took place two miles west of Paddington Station, less than a mile north of Notting Hill.

Mark Palmer said he was in the street nearby when he heard a "huge explosion

lasting for about 15 seconds, followed by billowing smoke."

He said one of the engines and one of the train cars were burned and lying on their sides. Many of the other carriages had jackknifed.

"It looks just horrendous. Rescuers are pulling people out of the wreckage. There are dozens of ambulances and fire engines," Palmer said.

BBC Radio reporter Phil Longman, who also was on one of the trains, said, "There was an initial bang and the train seemed to leap in the air."

"There was another bang and I was flung forward and I saw a piece of wreckage to the side of the window. ... I thought the wreckage was going to come through the window," Longman said.

"The guard came on the [speaker system] and told people to walk to the back of the train. You could hear him calling out for help from the emergency services. He said 'major emergency, major emergency.'"

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott announced a public inquiry into the crash after visiting the scene.



Rescue workers stand near the charred and mangled carriages of two trains that crashed Tuesday west of London. At least eight people were killed in the accident.

Public health officials prepare for early flu season

BY LESLIE MILLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — The flu season appears to have arrived early this year, courtesy of an influenza strain that reached the continental United States by hopping a ride on Alaskan cruise ships.

Public health officials from Colorado to Massachusetts have kicked off campaigns encouraging people to get vaccinated against the disease, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States.

"Remember when you get your shots, just think to yourself afterwards, it's just one shot for man, one giant leap for public health," Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Howard Koh said Monday.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta estimates that as much as 20 percent of the population gets the flu every season. Approximately 20,000 Americans die from flu complications each year.

Flu viruses follow well-worn paths, starting in Asia and heading east, health officials say.

Alaska is usually the first place in the United States to be affected, with the viruses eventually making their way south to the western United States and eventually the East Coast, said Dr. Steven Mostow, associate dean of the University of Colorado Medical School and an influenza expert.

3 die after car veers into Lake Michigan

CHICAGO (AP) — Police are investigating whether a woman deliberately drove her car into Lake Michigan in a wreck that killed her and two of her children.

The car veered off Lake Shore Drive, went slowly down some steps and paused for a moment before it suddenly accelerated and went into a downtown harbor Monday night, police and witnesses said.

Two police officers went into the murky, 59-degree water to try to rescue the victims. The officers had to be treated for exposure.

Police divers had to break a window to pull out the victims: Shirley Combest, 33, a long-distance operator for Sprint; her daughter, Shaniqua, 8; and her son John, 6. Ms. Combest had a teen-age son who was not in the car.

Ms. Combest had a history of depression and had been under a doctor's care a few months ago, said her mother, Ruthie Mae Combest. She said her daughter also was grieving over the death of an older sister in a car accident last month.

"She was taking it awful hard," the mother said.

Maimed elephant enjoys first walk since operation

LAMPANG, THAILAND (AP) — Motola, the elephant maimed by a land mine and saved by emergency surgery to amputate her foot last month, on Tuesday took her first walk since the operation.

The veterinarians tending the 38-year-old elephant said the walk appeared to boost the animal's spirits.

"It took a long time for Motola to walk for 30 yards, but she seems so happy," said Preecha Puangkham, head of Hang Chat Elephant Hospital in the northern province of Lampang. "I can feel the joy she has from being outside, even though it looks painful to go around hobbling on her three good legs."

Preecha and an elephant trainer kept Motola company on her first walk in almost 40 days. Preecha noticed the elephant eating fresh weeds and leaves she found along the way.

'Fugitive' victim's body to be exhumed

BY JOHN AFFLECK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Prosecutors trying to show that Dr. Sam Sheppard killed his wife 45 years ago exhumed the body of Marilyn Sheppard Tuesday morning along with the fetus she was carrying when she died.

After about one hour inside a two-story mausoleum in a suburban Cleveland cemetery, three police cars led a convoy of about one dozen cars, including a hearse bearing Mrs. Sheppard's body, from the cemetery to the coroner's office.

Her death in 1954 and the charge against her husband created a nationwide sensation and helped inspire "The Fugitive" television series and movie.

Prosecutors trying to show that Sheppard was the killer planned to examine the body to try to get a "clean DNA profile."

The exhumation was done as part of the state's effort to defend itself against a lawsuit by the couple's son, Sam Reese Sheppard.

Sheppard contends his father was wrongfully imprisoned for his mother's death. The doctor was imprisoned for 10 years before being acquitted at a retrial. He died in 1970.

The younger Sheppard is suing the state to have his father declared innocent, a stronger legal statement than the "not guilty" verdict at his second criminal trial. Sheppard could collect an estimated \$2 million if he wins.

Mrs. Sheppard was beaten to death in her second-floor bedroom at the family's home on Lake Erie. Her husband, who had been napping on the first floor, maintained that a bushy-haired intruder killed his wife and then knocked him unconscious when he heard her screams and ran to help.

Jack Utsick & Carolina Productions Presents...

7:30pm Carolina Coliseum



Tickets go on sale at the Carolina Coliseum Oct 8 for \$20



PLUS! The Village featuring the latest technology and coolest lifestyle gear

FEATURING the goo dolls

with special guest TONIC

Top Local MP3.com Artists Will Be Performing in The Village All Day Long



Questions? Call Carolina Productions @ 777-7130 Or visit our hotline @ 777-7131 & website www.sa.sc.edu/cp