

London Subway Derails, Injuring 37

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[Lindsay Toler, AP Writer](#)

LONDON — A subway train derailed in east London during rush hour Thursday. Thirty-seven people suffered minor injuries in the accident, which police said was not terror-related.

About 700 passengers — many of them covered in dust — were evacuated after the Central Line train derailed at 9:04 a.m. between the Bethnal Green and Mile End stations, British Transport Police said.

Paramedics treated 37 patients for minor injuries and 11 were taken to the hospital, the London Ambulance Service said in a statement.

Passenger Jacqui McElroy, 34, said the train seemed to lift up as it rounded a corner at Bethnal Green.

"Obviously the first thing that goes through your mind is "Is it terrorists?" she said.

The accident may have been caused by an obstruction on the tracks, according to Transport for London, which operates the system.

Bob Crow, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, said in a statement that subway workers had repeatedly raised concerns with transport authorities that contractors working in the area where the derailment occurred were not properly storing equipment.

The train remained upright throughout the incident, police said. Britain's Press Association reported that six cars may have gone off the track.

Emergency workers finished evacuating passengers from the derailed train and the one stuck behind it by 11 a.m., Transport for London said, adding that neither train was full.

Passengers walked out of the tunnel to the closest station, police said.

Service on a large section of the Central Line was suspended.

Images  (showing 1 of 2 photos)



Emergency service workers carry a passenger on a stretcher into an ambulance outside Mile End tube station, London, after a tube derailed on the westbound Central line between Mile End and Bethnal Green Thursday July 5, 2007. One person was injured in the accident and police have said the incident was not terror related. (AP Photo/Simon Dawson)

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch was investigating the derailment.

There were 21 derailments on the system in the year ending March 31, but none of those trains was carrying passengers, according to Transport for London.

British authorities are on high alert following three attempted terror attacks in London and Glasgow, Scotland, and ahead of the anniversary of the suicide bombings in London that killed 52 people on London's subway and bus system on July 7, 2005.

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