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The latest plan to cut Tube delays... engineers get flashing blue lights



Blues and twos: Engineers are going to be given flashing blue lights

Tube engineers will be able to travel to problems in emergency "blue light" vehicles in a bid to cut delays on the Underground.

For the first time Transport for London emergency responders will be able to cut through heavy central London traffic just like 999 services.

Tube bosses said the move will transform the network and "restore services more swiftly" for commuters.

Under the trial launched today, three new response vehicles will be driven by British Transport Police to escort a TfL engineer to the site of a failure.

The team will respond to incidents where public safety is at risk as well as suicides and recovery situations under the same conditions used by police, ambulance and fire services.

Mike Brown, managing director for London Underground, said: "Having the capability to travel with blue lights and sirens will mean that the specialist engineers of our Emergency Response Unit can cut through heavy traffic and respond more quickly."

Alan Pacey, Assistant Chief Constable for British Transport police, said: "Passenger safety will be improved by using 'blue lights'.

"Stuck trains will be freed from tunnels more quickly, enhancing passenger safety. There will

also be fewer crowd safety issues in stations."

The vehicles will also serve the Overground, Docklands Light Railway and London Tramlink networks. The trial aims to halve the time taken to respond to problems, and to cut disruption and delays before the 2012 Games.

Jon Lamonte, the TfL director responsible for the team, said: "Our specialist unit could be described as London's unknown emergency service. These new arrangements will enable us to carry out our work more effectively.

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