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## Metrolink train kills motorist on tracks

By Jason Kandel, Staff Writer

BURBANK - A female motorist was killed early Friday when her sedan was hit by a Metrolink train, and transit officials said she drove around crossing gates into the train's path.

The crash at San Fernando Road and Buena Vista Street happened about 8:25 a.m., and occurred three years to the day after a truck driver was killed in a Metrolink collision at the same intersection.

"We heard a loud screeching, a loud bang - metal to metal," said Art Alvarez, 34, who was working at a warehouse along San Fernando Road at the time of the crash. "It sounded like an explosion. People from down the street, over a mile, heard it. It's just terrible."

Train 208 was carrying about 280 passengers, none of whom was hurt. None of the cars derailed, officials said.

The victim's name was not immediately released, although authorities said she was an elderly woman.

"The investigators are trying to piece it all together, and figure out how it occurred," said Burbank police Officer Vee Jones.

Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell said the train's horn, the signals and crossing gates were all working properly.



Authorities stand near the wreckage of a car that was hit by a Metrolink train Friday. (Tina Burch / Staff photographer)

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"It's very, very sad," she said. "It's an unnecessary loss of life. This individual took a risk, a split-second risk. The train behaved exactly as it is designed to behave. We are fortunate that our equipment behaved safely and everything went well. But it's always a sad day when there is a fatality."

The train was in a push-pull configuration, with the passenger car in the front; it felt the brunt of the crash but did not derail. The push-pull method has been under scrutiny since another deadly Metrolink train crash in January 2005 left 11 passengers dead.

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