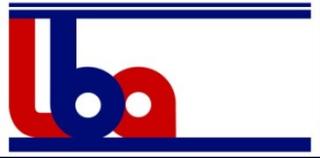


European Tunnel Safety Officers Forum Significant Incident

5th November 2009

**Les Fielding MIFireE, MIFSM,
MIHT**

London Bridge Associates

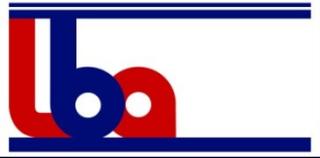


TSO Role as difficult as Herding Sheep



UK Tunnel Safety Regulations

- (3) The Tunnel Manager shall, within one month of an accident or significant incident occurring within a road tunnel for which it is the Tunnel Manager
 - (a) prepare a report on that accident or incident, (an incident report) that records the circumstances of the accident or incident; and
 - (b) send the incident report to such of the emergency services as are appropriate (including the administrative authority and the safety officer).



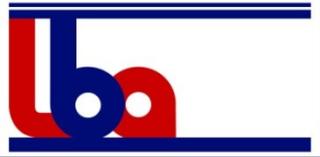
Incident report

If the Tunnel Manager prepares an investigation report, that analyses the circumstances of the incident or accident referred to in paragraph (3) or the conclusions that can be drawn from it, he shall forward that report to the administrative authority, Safety Officer and such of the emergency services as are appropriate within one month of the preparation or receipt of that report.



Definition of Significant Incident

- Discussed at length at UK TSO Meeting
2008 /09
- Differences of Opinion
- Draft Description / Definition produced June
2008



UK Draft Definition

- Multiple collisions involving fatalities, serious injuries or vehicles disabled on a carriageway - passenger coaches, school minibuses, or public service vehicles.
- Partial or full closure of the tunnel / approach roads due to tunnel environment or road conditions.
- Collisions involving crossover of a vehicle from one carriageway to another.



UK Draft Definition

- Fatalities involving fire.
- Serious collisions involving a vehicle carrying dangerous substances (e.g. hazardous chemicals, flammable liquids such as petrol, radioactive materials, etc)
- Collisions in tunnel or approach roads resulting in serious/potentially serious structural damage necessitating tunnel closures.



UK Draft Definition

- Fatal collisions in tunnel where road works are in progress
- Any significant event impacting partial or full closure of tunnel or approach roads due to collisions, security alerts or criminal/terrorist acts.
- Any incident off or adjacent to the network that may meet any of the above criteria, and affects the network.



UK Draft Definition

- Any incident or event off the TfL network which results in stationary vehicles for a period of 1 hour or more.
- Suicide or attempted suicide resulting on the closure of lanes or carriageways.-
- Road works over running by 30 minutes or more, and likely to have an impact on the network.

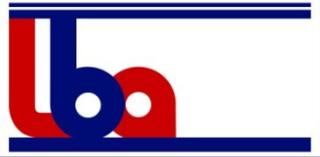


Final Simplified Agreement

A Significant Incident is:

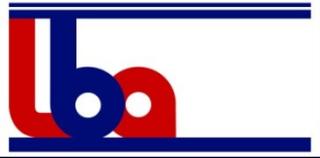
Any incident in the tunnel or its close approaches, which involves the activation of the tunnel's multi agency major response plan, including major equipment failure, fatality or fire!

The interpretation of this is down to each individual tunnel operator.



Incident Reporting General

- The UK has no established format for reporting under the Road Tunnel Safety Regulations
- There is no UK central data-base of tunnel incidents reported to the administrative authorities.
- There is no established / consistent feed back loop to ensure lessons learned are fed back



Opportunities

- Produce a European Definition of Significant Incident.
- Develop a standard incident reporting mechanism Europe wide
- Establish a European body to collate incident data.
- Empirical incident data would then be available to influence tunnel design, feed into PIARC, COSUF, ITA Etc.



Finally a Few Tips for TSO's

- Never Forget that you are unique..... “just like everyone else”.
- Don't aspire to be irreplaceable.... if you cant be replaced you cant be promoted.
- Good judgement comes from experience..... experience comes from bad judgement.
- Or to put in another way; experience is something you don't get until you need it, as this final video clip **shows!**