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 Health & Safety in Underground Space
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Human Factors regarding road tunnel safety

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 FGU
 Fachgruppe für Untertagbau

 GTS
 Groupe spécialisé pour les travaux souterrains

 GLS
 Gruppo specializzato per lavori in sotterraneo

 STS
 Swiss Tunnelling Society

	2001 / 2010	2011 / 2020		
2000	2001 2004			
F	ires / alpine tunnels 1999 / 2001			





- Initial implementation phases
- Feedback from actual events
- Stakeholders not very aware of issues related to human and organisational factors
- Users adopt inappropriate behaviour (fire)
- Agreement on need to improve these points



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« Human factors and organisational aspects »

Main lessons learnt regarding users

- They feel little apprehension when driving through a tunnel
- They are not very aware of available safety facilities
- Their level of attention varies whilst driving through a tunnel
- They do not appreciate having to interrupt their driving
- They find it difficult to grasp the seriousness of an emergency situation and to take the decision to evacuate
- They are concerned about having an inappropriate or excessive reaction

Very close cooperation with PIARC Tunnel Committee



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Content

- Actions targeting the infrastructure
- Actions targeting users
- Conclusion





Content

Actions targeting the infrastructure

- Actions targeting users
- Conclusion









Model taken into account when implementing communication means

MODEL OF EVACUATION TIME OF USERS IN ROAD TUNNEL



Figure 1: Elements for comparing the time necessary for evacuation with the time available for evacuation







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ROL

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Exit here !

Siren: to alert users more effectively SBS: to help users to locate the exits ... and to encourage them to enter the exits

even more important in urban tunnels with dense traffic

or

in tunnels where recurrent congestion makes it very difficult for the user to perceive real crisis situations

Experiment « real situation »

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Actions targeting the infrastructure

Main lessons learnt:

- The siren alerts the user
- The SBS encourages him/her to get out of the vehicle
- When 2 or 3 users decide to enter the exit, the others spontaneously follow them
- The arrows on the side walls improve evacuation efficiency

 Importance of the combination of different means (visual – audible) – already mentioned in the PIARC report

Actions targeting the infrastructure



Actions targeting the infrastructure





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Training for road tunnel drivers (France)

- Added to the highway code test 2005
- Specific questions dealing with safety in tunnels









Initiative consistent with:

- EU Directive 2008/65/CE on driving licences
- one of the main objectives of the PIARC report: "To focus training actions on professional drivers"
- Joint action undertaken by CETU, French organisations and companies in charge of training actions





Why?

- Goods vehicles are the source of aggravating factors in the event of a fire in a tunnel,
- Evacuation situations: once some users take the initiative to flee towards exits, the others follow them spontaneously
- A lot is at stake when training professional users (leadership role)
- These users are normally aware of safety issues
- They follow initial and further training courses ; very useful for setting a good example in a crisis situation



Organisation regarding the training of professional drivers in France:

- Accredited organisations and agencies
- Accredited road haulage companies
- Secondary schools for vocational training





- Aims of the action:
 - to work with these organisations



- to define a training approach that is tailored to the context of road tunnels
- to develop annotated training aids for instructors
- Dissemination: 2012





A « reference » presentation



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Terminé

🛃 Démarrei

Conclusions

- Fruitful cooperation between experts in the field of driver education and those in the field of road tunnel safety
- 360,000 French professionals drivers concerned
- 50,000 of them targeted every year

Conclusions

- French educational material can easily be adapted to fit an international context
- Possible further action: to translate the material into English and to encourage other countries to implement it

Very close cooperation with PIARC Tunnel Committee







3 short videos on « driving in tunnels » (summer 2018) - various web sites



normal operation (170.000)



breakdown (356.000 views)



Fire (278.000 views)

English, Italian, Spanish versions available

Updated survey (knowledge of safety issues)



Updated survey (knowledge of safety issues)

Knowledge of emergency exit



Knowledge of safety distance



Behaviour in crisis situation

Fire on its own vehicle		Vehicle		
		Car	Truck	
escape by driving	2015	10%	4%	
	2004	2 4%	31%	
Stop and actions (fire	2015	85%	91%	
extinguish, go to emergency				
exit, call operator,)	2004	68%	64%	
Stop and wait passively	2015	5%	5%	
	2004	<mark>8</mark> %	5 %	

Content

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End results:

- About 20 years of experiments, research actions, projects, feedback, ...
- 2 theses around 20 contributors from CETU
- Highly fruitful synergy (PIARC / CETU) 12 years (3 cycles)



Perspectives for future work

- Sound systems
- Paint effects and implementation of flashing lights at emergency exits
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (next PIARC Cycle priority topic):
 - Continuity of service when approaching a tunnel and driving through it
 - Existing functions to be improved and expected benefits of new ITS
 - Safety Management Systems (priority topic for CETU)
 - Organisational aspects links with safety documentation, exercises, feedback, inspections and maintenance, ...
 - On-going audits by CETU (8 operators)





Thank you for your attention

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