

# Safe driving in road tunnels for professionals

## Tips for truck and coach drivers



## Typical safety equipment in road tunnels

### Tunnel lighting

The lighting systems enable the human eye to adapt to the reduced visibility in tunnels. Emergency exits and stations are fitted with continuous emergency lighting.

### Traffic radio

Signs may indicate the radio frequency for traffic information. The tunnel operator may use this frequency to broadcast emergency announcements.

### Ventilation systems

In the event of a fire the ventilation system either extracts smoke from the tunnel or pushes smoke in a single direction.

### Traffic surveillance cameras

If there are traffic surveillance cameras and if an emergency call comes from an emergency station inside the tunnel, the images from the camera in that particular section may appear automatically on the monitor in the tunnel operator's control room.

### Emergency exits

These are clearly marked by appropriate signs and lights and have fireproof and smokeproof doors.

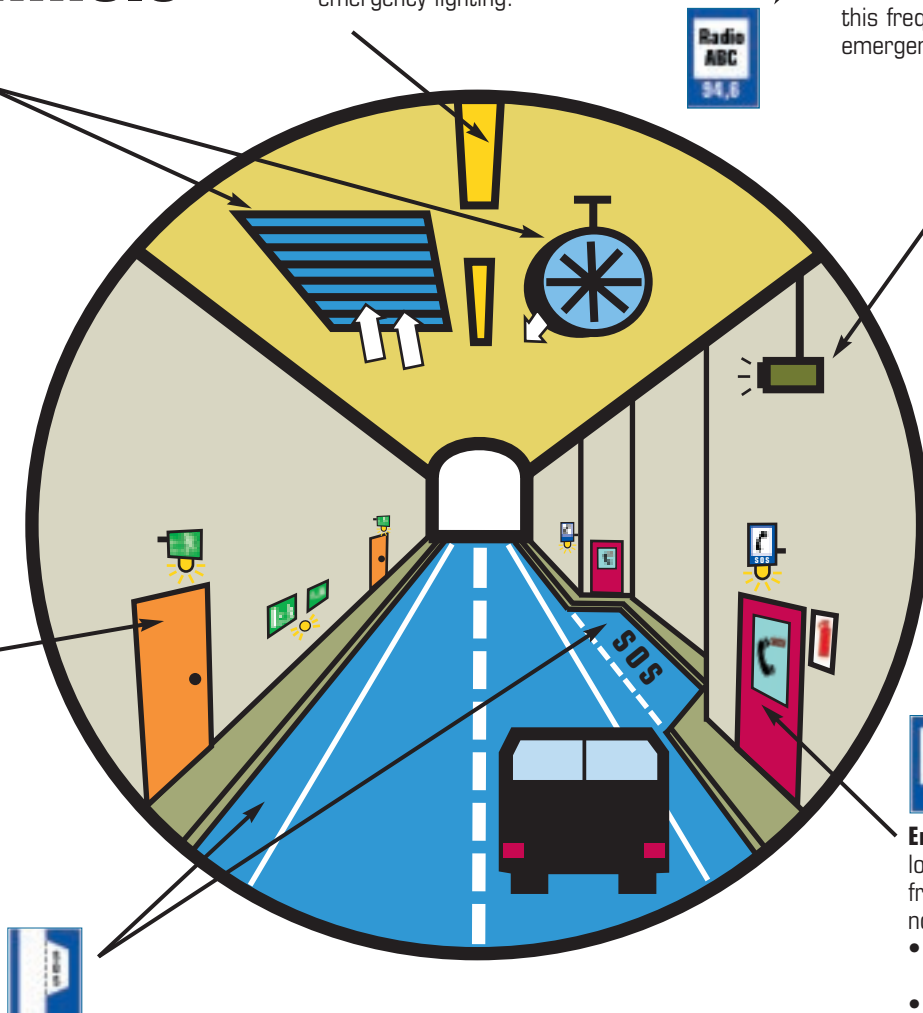


**Emergency stations** are located in the tunnel at frequent intervals. They are normally equipped with:

- emergency phones to the tunnel control room
- fire extinguishers
- push-button alarms

### Emergency lanes or lay-bys

If there are either emergency lanes or emergency lay-bys at regular intervals use them, if your vehicle has broken down. Lay-bys usually have an emergency station.



## 1 Before you reach the tunnel



Check your fuel, oil, coolant and the engine temperature. If overheating, stop and let it cool.

Check your brakes and lights.



Ensure any fire extinguishers are serviceable and you know how to use them.



**TRUCK DRIVERS:** Ensure that your vehicle and its load comply with the tunnel regulations. If not, take an alternative route.



**COACH DRIVERS:** Ensure that you know all safety procedures including the evacuation of passengers.

## 2 When you enter the tunnel



**Switch on your headlights.**

Take off your sunglasses.



Listen to messages on the radio.



Obey traffic lights, speed limits and signs.



Do not use your mobile phone. Do not smoke.

## 3 In the tunnel



**Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front, even if you are moving slowly or have stopped.**



Do not overtake if there is only one lane in each direction.



Do not make any U-turns or reverse unless ordered to do so.

Do not stop, except in an emergency.

## 4 Traffic congestion



**Switch on your warning lights.**



**Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front, even if you are moving slowly or have stopped.**



Switch off your engine, if the traffic has come to a halt.



Listen to messages on the radio.



Follow instructions given by tunnel officials or by variable message signs.

## 5 Breakdown or accident



**Switch on your warning lights.**



If possible, drive your vehicle out of the tunnel. If not possible, pull over to an emergency lane, or an emergency lay-by, or the side of the road.



**Switch off the engine, leave the key in the ignition and leave your vehicle.**



Call for help **ONLY** from an emergency station (mobile phones do not indicate where you are calling from). Say if you are transporting dangerous goods (what type) or passengers (and if any are injured).



Follow instructions given by tunnel officials.



If possible, give first aid to injured people.

## 6 Fire



**Switch on your warning lights.**

**YOUR VEHICLE IS ON FIRE:**

If possible drive out of the tunnel. If not possible, pull over to the side of the road.



**Switch off the engine, leave the key in the ignition and leave the vehicle immediately.**

**COACH DRIVERS: Evacuate all your passengers to safe areas.** (e.g. escape routes, emergency exits or shelters).



**ANOTHER VEHICLE IS ON FIRE:**

**Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you.**

Stop your vehicle as close to the side of the road as possible giving free access for emergency services.



**Switch off the engine, leave the key in the ignition and leave the vehicle immediately.**

**COACH DRIVERS: Evacuate all your passengers to safe areas.**



Call for help **ONLY** from an emergency station (mobile phones do not indicate where you are calling from). Say if you are transporting dangerous goods (what type) or passengers (and if any are injured).



**Help direct others to safe areas.**



If possible, put out the fire using your extinguisher or an extinguisher available in the tunnel and, if possible, give first aid to injured people.



If not, go immediately to an emergency exit and follow instructions given by tunnel officials.

## REMEMBER

**As a professional, you should guide and help other drivers and passengers in an emergency !  
Smoke and fire can kill – save yourself and your passengers, not your vehicle !**