

26 July 2024

Question 1

I presume your team are the first responders if there is an accident on your road. Has your team or those responding had training in relation to what to do when the accident involves an EV, particularly if there is a fire as a result?

I am specifically interested in EV accidents and fires associated with EV accidents.

Answer:

Safety is Transurban's number one priority, and we are always investing in research, customer incident response, driver safety and education. This extends to our road safety framework, which is underpinned by the safe system approach and aligns with World Health Organisation Global Road Safety Performance Targets and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Motorway tunnel systems are designed with fires as one of the highest risks. This includes fires and incidents from electric vehicles.

Our people in incident response have ongoing training for all incidents and how to make the environment safe for themselves, for those who have been impacted and for the other motorists or other people that are in the vicinity.

The plans and designs of our assets include the following features:

- CCTV, monitored 24/7
- Automatic Vehicle Incident Detection systems
- Linear heat cables and Carbon Monoxide detectors which can all detect smoke or flames
- The ability to quickly put in place Traffic Management Guidance (external signage to advise tunnel close and divert traffic)
- Ventilation systems that activate automatically and extracts smoke
- Systems to drop deluge (water) on fire location
- People in vehicles are communicated with via address systems and signage and directed either to stay in car, move to a safe location or are guided to evacuate the tunnel
- Emergency Services take control of the site and manage the event
- We can also close the tunnel if required, and ensure it is only reopened after an engineering assessment is undertaken and cleared.

Question 2

How many incidents of EV fires have occurred as a result of an accident on your roads over the last three years?

Answer

Zero (data collected on 22 April 2024).