
From: Leathers, Kathryn [Leathers.Kathryn@leg.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 5:21 PM
To: Dye, Dave; White, John; Paananen, Ron; Reilly, John
Subject: RE: Tunnel - emergency exit question

Thank you all. Appreciate the information. Kathryn

From: Dye, Dave [mailto:DyeD@wsdot.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:48 PM
To: White, John; Paananen, Ron; Reilly, John
Cc: Leathers, Kathryn
Subject: RE: Tunnel - emergency exit question

Thanks John - by cc, I'll pass this to Kathryn and let it stand as our answer for now - I guess I'd say it is a work in progress for a while but this gives some insight...

-dave

From: White, John
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:45 PM
To: Dye, Dave; Paananen, Ron; Reilly, John
Subject: RE: Tunnel - emergency exit question

The initial discussion around code requirements has centered around being able to easily access the access/egress doors (650' apart), at which point the ADA person would need to be assisted to the walkway/safe level. As Ron says, from there you have a couple of choices in how you get out of the tunnel. There is no provision in tunnels that we know of that requires elevators or other non-stair means of accessing the 'safe' zone. While this is not a final call, we have been discussing this with people that have extensive background in this area, so we think we are on solid ground.

Part of our early planning will be an emergency management plan that covers access/egress and fire/life safety. We are already in talks with the Fire Marshall and have commenced the fire/life safety committee.

From: Dye, Dave
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:33 PM
To: Paananen, Ron; White, John; Reilly, John
Subject: RE: Tunnel - emergency exit question

There are a couple of routes available to escape - one is by the emergency exits to the "other" roadway (up or down depending on location of incident) and the other is out the tunnel portal upstream of the incident in the same roadway - I think Ron you are correct that ADA does not apply but we should check with the appropriate standards bearer...would Gordon know?

From: Paananen, Ron
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:28 PM
To: White, John; Reilly, John
Cc: Dye, Dave
Subject: Fw: Tunnel - emergency exit question

My off the cuff answer is the emergency exits are not required to meet ADA requirements (stair wells in high rise buildings come to mind). Persons with disabilities may need assistance reaching emergency exits.

From: Leathers, Kathryn

To: Paananen, Ron

Sent: Thu Apr 23 16:11:42 2009

Subject: Tunnel - emergency exit question

Ron,

I received a question from a member regarding escape/exit routes in the tunnel. Will they be accessible by persons with disabilities? In other words, if a passenger/driver cannot walk, will s/he be able to get out of the tunnel through one of the emergency exits in a wheelchair? I assume there must be some accommodation made for this, but wasn't sure how it is addressed in the plan for the deep bore tunnel.

Thanks,

Kathryn