

An innovative solution in the fight against road surface spillages

An innovative solution

Scotland TranServ has become the first trunk roads maintenance provider in Scotland to fully embrace a pioneering solution designed to combat small, to medium sized spillages on road surfaces across the south west network; resulting in reduced congestion and safer and quicker journeys for motorists.

The recent introduction of Fuel Safe, an environmentally friendly, water soluble liquid which ensures the safe and efficient evaporation of spillages including fuel, oil, paint, solvents and even body fluids has significantly reduced the requirement for sweepers and other third parties to attend incidents on the motorways and designated trunk roads that Scotland TranServ maintains on behalf of Transport Scotland.

Up to 1,000 litres of Fuel Safe can be stored at any one time in the depot in Polmadie, Glasgow. The Trunk Roads Incident Support Service (TRISS) and ISU (Incident Support Unit) operatives were the first in Scotland to receive investment in eight backpack sprayers, which each carry 16litres of Fuel Safe and are capable of immediately deploying the solution; a quicker, more efficient and eco-friendly option than the commonly used absorbent granules.

Keeping south west Scotland's roads moving

With a strong focus on continuous improvement, Scotland TranServ aims to keep south west Scotland's roads moving. Fuel Safe leaves a clean, non slip finish with only one application in comparison to absorbent granules which would require the trunk road to be closed until repeat applications are complete. It also dries quickly therefore reducing the requirement for the disposal of controlled waste; which can be costly and time consuming.

The solution is diluted with up to four parts water, applied to the spillage and worked into the surface with a brush; leaving it clear within 30 seconds. It can then be left to dry naturally or the excess can be removed with absorbent pads. Unlike other products of its kind, Fuel Safe is an all weather solution meaning it is versatile and reliable even in the harshest conditions.

An environmentally friendly product, Fuel Safe is a non hazardous, interceptor safe, 'fast splitting' product which prevents the possibility of any oil mixture being discharged in the unlikely event of it entering an interceptor. The solution has also been tested on a variety of mixtures and does not strip bitumen or asphalt from the stone making it the ideal formulation for use on all surfaces.



"Over the last eight years, the TRISS/ISUs have become an integral part of the service we provide on behalf of Transport Scotland. The team acts as a support mechanism for Police Scotland; often attending incidents within 20 minutes of receiving a call to our Network Control Centre. The introduction of Fuel Safe has only served to enhance our capabilities and partnership working with Traffic Scotland and the emergency services."

Tom Docherty, TRISS Supervisor

A new generation of partnership working

During the summer of 2013, a partnership demonstration with the emergency services and Scotland TranServ's suppliers further addressed the benefits to introducing innovative techniques to help improve journey times and safety on the network.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Scotland TranServ, who manage and maintain south west Scotland's trunk road routes on behalf of Transport Scotland, staged the event with support from suppliers Barry Devlin



"The demonstration proved to be an excellent platform for Scotland TranServ to build and strengthen our relationships and learn how we can work better together to not only improve safety on south west Scotland's roads but also to achieve reliable journey times for motorists travelling on the network.

"As a business we are committed to sharing ideas and best practice and developing innovative techniques which are implemented wherever possible. The introduction of Fuel Safe means Scotland TranServ can half the time taken to open a motorway or trunk road compared using the more traditional methods such as absorbent granules and calling out road sweepers.

"We believe that this approach to continuous improvement will only serve to enhance our services over the next five years and beyond."

Russell Rennie, Contract Director for Scotland TranServ

Recovery and Main Group, which seen a road traffic incident being brought to life at a purpose built, crash training facility within the station. Senior representatives from North Ayrshire Council, Transport Scotland and the emergency services were also in attendance.

The event involved creating an exhilarating scenario where teams arrived at the scene of a simulated road accident and demonstrated how emergency services react; from removing the roof of the vehicle to 'rescue' trapped passengers through to ensuring a rapid clear up to open the road for motorists.

"Transport Scotland, through Scotland TranServ and our other partners, want to see a safe and efficient road network and this demonstration is an excellent example of how we work together to achieve that objective.

"Clearing up fuel spillages is one of the issues that we face on a regular basis and this can often lead to more congestion and longer waiting times for drivers and I am very pleased to see Scotland TranServ taking action to help reduce the impact."

Graeme Reid, Transport Scotland's Network Manager for the south west

