



Swiss Federal Railways SBB

«Training that sets standards»

Over 300 tunnels, 3,000 kilometres of track and 9,000 trains a day: it quickly becomes apparent from these figures how important tunnel safety is at Swiss Federal Railways SBB. Where SBB previously had to do without standardised training for deployment in railway tunnels, today it is happy to put its trust in the International Fire Academy ifa. «We were particularly impressed with the training concept, as it standardises deployment procedure,» explains Thomas Bettler, Intervention Manager with SBB Infrastructure, adding, «ifa makes training possible for us that would be inconceivable in our own tunnels.»

 SBB CFF FFS

Swiss Federal Railways SBB

SBB Infrastructure

SBB Infrastructure makes success possible for its partners in passenger and freight transport, thanks to the professional operation, maintenance and development of the railway infrastructure. In this respect, safety forms the basis of success.

Main assignment

- › Professional track management and efficient management of operations
- › Planning, building, operating and maintaining the fixed railway systems of SBB Infrastructure
- › Developing the rail and electricity networks
- › Contributing to the success of the SBB group of companies

«The professionalism of the International Fire Academy ifa impresses us greatly.» Thomas Bettler, Intervention Manager, SBB Infrastructure



«We found what we are unable to offer ourselves at the International Fire Academy ifa: a tunnel exercise facility, in which we can run through every scenario as often as we want in realistic conditions.»

Thomas Bettler, Intervention Manager, SBB Infrastructure

Background

The division responsible for safety in Swiss Federal Railways is «SBB Infrastructure». Amongst other things, this division includes the SBB internal fire and rescue service, which co-operates with the professional and support fire services in the event of large-scale incidents. In 2006, the internal fire and rescue service became a professional organisation all over Switzerland. In the wake of this reorganisation, the training of fire services responsible for tunnel systems was considered, with the objective of establishing a more realistic configuration and a standardised deployment procedure.

When it was looking for a professional training partner, SBB Infrastructure checked out a number of providers. The service offered by the International Fire Academy ifa was most convincing, thanks to its unique infrastructure with its tunnel exercise facility in Balsthal, the didactic training concept it comprehensively developed itself with instruction and training, as well as an extensive service offering, even including catering and accommodation.

SBB statements

«The ifa offers everything in a single place: we can have our people instructed and trained here, they are catered for and can even stay overnight. This complete service is the trump card of the International Fire Academy ifa.»

«The feedback from our members of staff has been positive throughout. Particular mention was made of the high level of professionalism, in-depth know-how and the exciting, highly instructive programme.»

«Our fire stations are spread out all over Switzerland. Therefore, the central location of the International Fire Academy ifa is a big advantage for our training sessions.»

«The International Fire Academy ifa sets standards in the railway intervention sector and is bound to establish itself internationally as the fire service academy for deployment in underground transportation facilities.»