



## Case Study

### Asian Tsunami Disaster *Emergency Mortuary Facilities, London*

*"The task at hand was dealt with extremely professionally by all organisations involved. In my view, this task had all the challenges and tests we planners could think up and more, coupled with the timing difficulties of a virtual shut-down of most organisations due to the New Year. De Boer Structures were a vital link in ensuring their staff and partner contractors delivered our requests within 24 hours. They truly were a one-stop shop."*

**MICHAEL LONG, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham**

#### **The Context:**

On 24th December 2004, a large swathe of countries surrounding the Indian Ocean, from Indonesia to as far away as the east coast of Africa, were hit by a massive tsunami. This event occurred at a time when many hundreds of UK citizens were enjoying holidays in the region, during the festive break, in the region.

#### **The Requirement:**

Within thirty-six hours of the disaster, De Boer was asked to provide emergency facilities for UK citizens who died in the tragedy following their return home for burial or cremation. It was felt that the facilities provided by the existing mortuary in Fulham would need to be extended. In particular, the requirement for additional family facilities and complete privacy shrouding were essential.

#### **Our Approach:**

De Boer worked closely with HM Coroner, the London Resilience Team, the Metropolitan Police and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to provide additional facilities at the Fulham Mortuary in South-West London.

De Boer swiftly erected two structures at the mortuary, and also arranged additional services including power generation, air purification, lighting and ventilation.

#### **Benefits:**

De Boer was able to demonstrate their ability to swiftly build and initiate a mortuary facility during a holiday period when people and resources are traditionally difficult to obtain. Essentially, De Boer was also able to deliver the flexibility required as a result of a disaster of this nature, responding effectively to changing requirements and preparedness for an evolving situation.