



Case Study

Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) Emergency Mortuary Facility, London

“De Boer staff went far above and beyond the call of duty in response to this emergency. They helped ensure that London’s response was swift, efficient, and above all sensitive. The proactive, efficient and positive approach by De Boer, in spite of tragic circumstances, was outstanding.”

**SIMON MILTON, Leader of
Westminster Council**

The Context:

On the Seventh July 2005, London was rocked by a series of suicide bomb attacks. At that time it was unknown how many fatalities were expected, or whether further attacks might occur. At that time, the London Resilience Team and Westminster City Council had no permanent arrangement for emergency mortuary facilities, but were aware of De Boer’s capability following the Asian Tsunami disaster.

The Requirement:

As a result, De Boer was asked to erect and make operational a emergency mortuary facility in the grounds of the HAC City Road, immediately following the bomb attacks. Within 24 hours De Boer had shipped, erected and completed activation of the mortuary facilities. The facility allowed the processing of over 50 people killed and almost 1,300 separate body parts from the tube network and following the explosion on the bus at Tavistock Square. In addition to the structure of the mortuary facility, the equipment and facilities were also needed to ensure effective operation. Outside of the mortuary De Boer also provided structures and furniture at each of the Underground Stations affected, and refrigeration facilities at the site of the bus bombing.

Our Approach:

During the days that followed the incident, De Boer initiated a fleet of five trucks, equipped with the interchangeable and flexible De Boer equipment to be erected at the HAC grounds. The De Boer team also sourced and managed the installation of a wide ranging selection of additional services, including power and air-conditioning, air-purification, lighting, showers, toilets and track way. Also furniture and fixtures in keeping with the specialist requirements, such as the family suite created for relatives of the victims.

During this time, De Boer managed up to 300 staff at any one time. Throughout this operation, De Boer worked closely with a broad range of organisations including the MET Police Gold and Silver Command, Westminster City Council, London Resilience Team and voluntary groups such as the Salvation Army.

Benefits:

De Boer was able to deploy a large quantity of equipment quickly and flexibly, solving all manner of problems as they arose. In addition, De Boer took responsibility for the entire Mortuary facility, ensuring that the needs of the coroner, other specialists and government agencies were met. In recognition, the De Boer project manager was invited to meet the Prime Minister at Downing Street.