

## **Drilling Winter Conditions: experience in abertis Spain's Highways**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Spain's highways, as well as other road infrastructures, are subject to basic emergency plans, action plans and specific plans that regulate any emergency situation that may take place as direct result of its use. They also determine responses to risk situations that could affect the population. These plans involve training staff, communicating information to road users, and acquiring and updating resources as well as carrying out annual drills.

Actually, drilling emergency situations allow testing the achievement of a company's basic objectives. In the specific case of winter weather, the aim of such goals is to keep the highway open throughout the emergency, providing the best circulation conditions as possible and guaranteeing both road fluidity and safety at all times.

The following text analyses to what extent these drills are vital to the implementation of emergency plans in unfavourable weather conditions: they test the coordinated actions of all the different elements that take part in such emergency plans. The text also highlights the role of the Operation Centre, which directs how emergencies are dealt with in real situations and therefore must define the goals of the drill, describe the simulated scenario, establish a chronology of the incident and evaluate any improvement measures that might be deemed necessary.