Quasi-diagonal $C^*$-algebras form a large class of $C^*$-algebras and arise naturally in many contexts. Dan Voiculescu has shown that quasi-diagonality is a homotopy invariant, and consequently, that the cone of a $C^*$-algebra is always quasi-diagonal. In this talk we discuss an extension of this result for exact continuous fields of $C^*$-algebras. As an application, we obtain that the group $C^*$-algebras of certain central group extensions are always quasi-diagonal. (Received September 20, 2011)