

Keynote Speakers

Dr. David Crowder

Head of Fire Investigation and Expert Witness Services, BRE Group

David has overall responsibility for the fire investigation team as well as expert witness services across all disciplines in the BRE Group of companies.



He specialises in investigating fire development, the performance of fire protection measures and systems during real fire incidents, and the regulatory aspects of performance in these areas. Major fire investigations he has worked on include the Penhallow Hotel fire in Cornwall, the Atherstone-on-Stour warehouse fire, Royal Marsden Hospital, Cutty Sark and the Lakanaal fire in Camberwell.

Research projects include: fire spread in car parks, researching the effectiveness of residential sprinklers, evacuating mobility impaired people from hospitals, developing a fire protection strategy for HMS Victory, developing cost effective water misting systems for use in prison cells and a scoping study on the environmental impact of fires. He holds a PhD in the impact of fire chemistry (flammability and toxicity) in fatal fires, examined via the investigation and reconstruction of real fires.

Arnold Dix

Risk Doctor - Technical / Legal
ALARP

Arnold Dix is a passionate advocate for safety in complex built structures. With an international reputation as a disaster investigator, consultant and advisor - trained as a Lawyer and Scientist - with a professional background spanning Partnerships in some of the world's leading Law firms, a barrister and Visiting Professor of Engineering at Tokyo City University His background and professional focus is rather strange but useful. He serves on two NFPA standards (NFPA 130 and 502) at the invitation of the US for nearly 20 years, sits on the Executive of the International Tunnelling Association (UN affiliate), is a registered British Investigator, and founded the ALARP group of companies.



Niall Rowan

Chief Executive Officer, ASFP

Niall started working in fire in 1979 graduating to managing Warringtonfire's (Exova) test laboratory operations. He drafted the first twelve fire resistance test methods for CEN in the 1990s and from 2007 to 2009 he was President of EGOLF, the European organisation of fire testing laboratories and certification bodies.



In 2009 Niall became the ASFP's Technical Officer, responsible for the Association's technical output, including the recently revised Yellow, Red, and Blue Books, the ASFP Guide to Passive Fire Protection for Fire Risk Assessors and many other publications.

Niall took on the role of Chief Operations Officer at the ASFP at the start of 2017 providing leadership and direction to the ASFP's aims to ensure professionalism in the design, development, specification, installation and maintenance of Passive Fire Protection.

In early 2018 Niall became the ASFP's Chief Executive Officer where he continues to work with government, agencies and other stakeholders. He currently spends much of his time involved with fallout from the horrific Grenfell Tower fire and sits on the Building Regulations Advisory Committee which is revising the statutory guidance to the Building Regulations in the wake of the tragedy.

Sean Decrane

Industry Relations, Building & Life Safety Technologies, UL LLC

Sean DeCrane retired as a 25+ year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Fire. He rose through the ranks and serving in various roles including the Director of Training and Acting Chief of Operations. He retired as a Battalion Chief covering Cleveland's Westside



Sean has been very involved in the research at Underwriters Laboratories and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He serves on the UL Fire Council, is a member of the UL Fire Fighter Safety Research Institute's Advisory Board and is currently on a number of technical panels for research and standards.

Chief DeCrane also represented the International Association of Fire Fighters in the International Code Council process and has served on the 2009, 2012, 2105 and 2018 Fire Code Developing Committee and as Chair for 2015 and 2018. Sean served on the NFPA 1 Technical Advisory Panel, NFPA Research Foundation on Tall Wood Buildings and is serving as the Chair of the fire Test Work Group for the ICC Tall Wood Building Ad Hoc Committee.

Sean has been awarded the 2015 UL Council Member's Achievement Award, 2014 Fire Equipment Manufacturer's Fire Safety Advocate of the Year Award, the 2013 International Association of Fire Chiefs Life Safety Award and the 2012 ICC-IAFC Life Safety Advocate Award. Sean has delivered a number of keynote addresses including the 2015 Fire Department Instructor's Conference. Currently Sean has been appointed as the UL Manager for Industry Groups and association and Professional Organizations.

Jonathan Barnett

Technical Director, RED Fire Engineers, Australia

Jonathan has over 40 years' experience in fire safety engineering. Previously a professor of fire engineering and mechanical engineering at WPI in the US, Jonathan has researched topics such as computer modelling of fire, structural fire protection and the development of tests for firefighting personal protective equipment. Today he is the Technical Director for RED Fire Engineers in Australia.

As an expert witness, Jonathan has testified on fire events throughout the world. In 2001

Jonathan was a core team member for the Building Performance Study that investigated the events of 9/11.

Currently, Jonathan is the national chair of Engineers Australia Society of Fire Safety and a Subject Matter Expert for The Australian Building Codes Board. He is also a founding and life Member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (NZ Chapter).



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Mt Maunganui | New Zealand

THE FORUM OF FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SAFETY
AND FIRE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

