

Programme



# Fire Safety Conference

Bridging policy and practice: the future of building and fire safety



### Type of event

Online



### CPD Hours

7

Formal

# Book your place today

[Click here](#)

The fire safety agenda in the UK continues to be of critical importance for surveying professionals. Constant changes to government policy, regulatory updates and new guidance make it more important than ever for those working in the built environment to come together to pause, reflect and take stock of how regulations and ways of working are evolving each year, whilst also looking forward and preparing for what is to come.

Delve into the key developments from across the fire safety profession, gaining essential insights through a mix of keynote addresses, panels and best practice case studies.

Key topics covered include:

- **Understanding the latest regulations and standards:** Gain insights into the Fire Safety Act 2021, Building Safety Act 2022, and PAS 9980, and learn about the current status of Professional Indemnity Insurance.
- **Staying informed on design and safety updates:** Receive the latest updates on the Principal Designer role, BS9991, and fire safety in the design, management, and use of residential buildings.
- **Enhancing competency:** Stay current with competency updates, including developments in construction products.
- **Fire safety of PV installations:** Explore the risks and hazards associated with these technologies.
- **Implementing the Golden Thread:** Access the latest guidance on the Golden Thread and Fire Safety documentation to ensure complian

## Day 1 – 15 October 2024

08:30 Registration and virtual networking

09:00 **Welcome Remarks from the Conference Chair**

**Jaspal Virdee-Dhanjal** BSc (Hons), FRICS, PGC, CMS, Chartered Building Control Surveyor

9:05 **Welcome by RICS**

**Nicholas Maclean** OBE RD BSc FRICS IRRV, Senior Vice-President, RICS

### Opening Session

#### Grenfell Report Overview and Q&A.

09:10 This opening session will be divided into two parts. The first will offer a high-level review of the Grenfell Report, summarising key findings and directing attendees to additional resources for further exploration. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage with David and the panel, asking questions and sharing their thoughts on the report and its wider implications.

**David McCulloch** FRICS PPIBC, Fire Compliance Manager, **Balfour Beatty** and Chair of the Fire Safety Working Group, RICS

09:30 **Fire Safety Progress: Insights from Central Government and Fire Services**

Join us for an insightful session on fire safety featuring key updates from the Home Office and Fire Services. In this opening plenary, speakers will reflect on progress made and challenges faced seven years after the Grenfell tragedy. It will provide an overview of the new political landscape, examining how recent regulations and trends have impacted the profession.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into current fire safety practices, statistics and research, legislative changes, and future directions from experts in central government and fire services.

**Daniel Minshull**, Head of Fire and Rescue Analysis, **Home Office**

**Matthew Armer**, Head of Fire Risk Assessment Policy and Practice, **Home Office**

**Nick Coombe** MBE EngTech FIFireE FIFSM, Head of Service Support, **London Fire Brigade**

10:15 Conference break

#### Roles and responsibilities of Principal Designers

10:25 This session will explore the pivotal role of Principal Designers within the new regulatory landscape of the Building Safety Act 2022. With the recent implementation of the Building Regulations 2023, clarity is essential for all involved in construction projects, from domestic extensions to higher-risk buildings.

**Phil Southgate** BSc (Hons) FRICS, C. Build E, FCABE, Director, **Norder**.

11:10 Conference break

### Insights session

#### A review of quality control issues in construction.

11:20 This session will provide a comprehensive review of quality control (QC) issues in the construction industry, with a particular focus on fire and building safety. It aims to enhance understanding of common QC challenges, regulatory requirements, and best practices to ensure the integrity and safety of construction projects.

**Mike Ward** BSc (Hons), FRICS, C. Build E FCABE, FAPM, MICWCI, MCIQB, CMgr FCMI, CEnv, Senior Technical Quality Manager, **ISG**

12:05 Conference break

### Breakout sessions

**Session A Chair: Magdalena Prus**, Associate Technical Director, **HKA**

**Session B Chair: Ms Jaspal Virdee-Dhanjal** FRICS, Chartered Building Control Surveyor

#### 1A

#### Enhancing Clarity and Compliance: An Overview of the Latest in Construction Products

12:15 Join this session for a comprehensive overview of the latest in compliance for construction products. We will explore advancements in competence frameworks and the codes for Construction Product Information, highlighting how these measures aim to enhance clarity, transparency, and accessibility of product information.

**Hanna Clarke**, Digital and Policy Manager, **Construction Products Association**

## 1B Fire Safety regulations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Join this session for an overview of the latest regulatory changes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and insights on what could be coming over the year.

- Summary of the developments of fire safety regulation in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland over the past 12 months
- How is regulation in each nation diverging from the other?
- What does the future of fire safety across the UK look like?

**Alan McAulay MRICS BSc(HONS)**, Director, **Scottish Building Standards Hub**

**Derek Kennedy**, Director of Office for Building Safety, **Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.**

**Steve Pomeroy BA MA MPA**, Head of Fire Services, **Welsh Government**

13:00 Closing remarks and end of conference day 1

## Day 2 – 16 October 2024

08:30 Registration and virtual networking

09:00 **Welcome Remarks from the Conference Chair**

**Jaspal Virdee-Dhanjal FRICS**, Chartered Building Control Surveyor

09:05 Update from Lionhearts new CEO, Phil Sparke

### **What is the Latest with BS9991? An Update on Fire Safety in the Design, Management, and use of Residential Buildings**

Due to the extensive consultation period of the revision of the 2015 version, there is significant anticipation within the industry for updates that address contemporary challenges and advancements in fire safety.

09:10 This session will cover the current status of BS9991 and recent developments, key changes and proposed updates in the latest version and the timeline and expected release of the updated standard. James Lane is a recognised specialist in fire safety engineering and provides his respected opinion to the British Standards Institute (BSI), as a member of the review and drafting panel for key fire safety codes of practice such as BS9991 and BS9999.

**James Lane BEng (Hons), CEng, FIFireE**, Director of Fire Engineering, **Wintech Group**

09:55 Conference break

### **Insights session**

#### **Professional Indemnity Insurance – what has changed in the past 12 months?**

PII remains an important area of contention within fire safety. This session will aim to answer some of your key concerns and review the insurance market over the last year.

10:05

- Reviewing the developments to the PI insurance market over the past 12 months
- Examining the Governments actions in the PI market and what the RICS has done to support the profession.
- What is deemed as high and low risk according to insurance providers?
- Looking to the future – how can we expect PII to develop alongside the fire safety agenda.
- Update on EWS training

**Carys Rowland**, Head of Professional Standards, **RICS**

10:50 Conference break

#### **PAS 9980 – what's the conclusion from the two-year review?**

This session will provide a comprehensive update on PAS 9980, the key code of practice for assessing the fire risk of external wall constructions. Attendees will learn about the latest developments and guidance, including:

11:00

- **New Amendments and Updates:** overview of expected changes in the ongoing update and how they will impact the assessment process.
- **Risk Assessment Framework:** detailed explanation of the methodologies and criteria for evaluating fire risks in external wall systems.
- **Practical Application:** Case studies and real-world examples illustrating the application of PAS 9980 in various building types.
- **Stakeholder Responsibilities:** Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, including building owners, assessors, and regulatory bodies.

- **Compliance and Best Practices:** Insights into ensuring FRAEWs comply with the standard and integrating best practices into fire risk assessments.

**Dr David Crowder**, Partner, **DCCH Experts LLP**

**11:50** Conference break and refreshment break

**Breakout Chairs:**

**Jaspal Virdee-Dhanjal FRICS**, Chartered Building Control Surveyor

**Alison Phillips BSc (Hons) FIIRSM MIFSM**, Head of Fire Safety Risk Management, **Ocado Group**

**12:00**

**2A**

### **Fire safety of PV installations**

This session will provide a comprehensive exploration of the fire safety challenges associated with PV systems. As the adoption of solar power continues to grow, so does the need to consider risks and hazards associated with these technologies. This session aims to equip participants with both a theoretical and practical understanding of fire risks in PV systems.

**Benjamin Ralph**, Director, **Hollis**

**12:00**

**2B**

### **Latest Guidance on the Golden Thread**

This session will provide an in-depth overview of the latest guidance on the Golden Thread, a digital framework designed to enhance building safety.

**Key topics will include:**

- **Digital Information Management:** strategies for identifying, understanding, managing, and mitigating building safety risks, with a focus on preventing fire spread and structural collapse.
- **Stakeholder Communication:** best practices for ensuring effective transfer of fire and structural safety information between all stakeholders, from designers and construction companies to clients.
- **Information Maintenance:** Methods for collating relevant safety information, assigning responsibility for updates, and fostering a culture that supports the continuous maintenance of this critical data.
- **Compliance with the Building Safety Act:** An overview of the necessary documents and protocols required by the Building Safety Act to ensure comprehensive safety and compliance

**Janice Tam**, Technical Director, **HKA**

**Jon Bird**, Technical Director, **HKA**

**12:55** **Closing Remarks**

**13:00** **End of Conference**

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

Americas, Europe, Middle East & Africa  
**[aemea@rics.org](mailto:aemea@rics.org)**

Asia Pacific  
**[apac@rics.org](mailto:apac@rics.org)**

United Kingdom & Ireland  
**[contactrics@rics.org](mailto:contactrics@rics.org)**



**[rics.org](https://www.rics.org)**