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# HIGH RISE FIREFIGHTING CONFERENCE

On-Line | Wednesday 7 October 2020

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# Welcome

## Conference will be chaired by

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**ROY WILSHER OBE QFSM**

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I am delighted to open this conference and welcome colleagues from both the UK and internationally.

The UK fire sector continues to face significant challenges as we work through the impacts of the Grenfell Tower fire, the Building Safety Programme, the HMICFRS State of Fire report

and a spending review. All of this requires us to work together to share and learn from the experiences and expertise available to us from a local to international level. Globally we all face issues from an increasing number of tall buildings along with an apparent shortage of expertise in the built environment changing our expectations of how buildings will react in fires. In the UK we have seen that compartmentation, cavity barriers, fire stopping, protected escape routes and other cladding systems, including certain types of HPL are giving cause for concern.

Through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) the UK Fire and Rescue Service is working together to drive improvement and development, reduce duplication and support local delivery as well as ensuring that Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) have a professional voice on the national stage. Our discussions in Council have confirmed that we need to adjust our Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMP) to take account of the failures in the building safety system. NFCC is producing a set of standardised tools for FRSs to enable consistent identification, assessment and mitigation strategies for community risk. We have ensured that National Operational Guidance (NOG) has been updated to include issues such as external breaches of compartmentation and we commissioned a further piece of work more specifically about operational response to a Grenfell type incident.

As an organisation we are keen to ensure that the experiences and learning from the UK fire sector is discussed as widely as possible and so I am pleased to be chairing a conference like this with a variety of speakers including two of the NFCC Committees Chairs and audience comprising of a third of international delegates.



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# TALL BUILDING FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT COURSE

## Ideal for Building Safety Managers (BSM's)

*“BSM's are now being appointed by my Housing Association. This course has equipped me with the understanding of the requirements for BSM's. It will allow me to advise and assist my line manager in the appointment of competent persons to carry out the role.”*

The need for Fire Safety in Tall Buildings to be managed has never been greater. Several high-profile Tall Building fires in recent years have highlighted the need for those tasked with the management of fire safety to have training and competency. Residents and occupants of Tall Buildings expect their buildings to be managed and maintained to a high Fire Safety standard.

Since 2013, the Tall Building Fire Safety Network (TBFSN) has been delivering the Tall Building Fire Safety Management Courses, which is recognised by the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE). Over 400 delegates have undertaken the 5-day intensive programme. Courses have been delivered in the UK, Australia and Malta.

Proposed changes to fire and building safety legislation within the UK will mean that new management roles will be created for Higher Risk Buildings (HRB). In order to provide training for these new roles and responding to customer requests, TBFSN will be launching some new training titles for 2021. These are:

All three courses will be delivered over 5 days and are assessable with a test and assignments to be completed. Unless Covid restrictions ease, all courses will be delivered remotely via Microsoft teams.

All three on-line courses are priced at £1850 + vat, for 5 days of expert tuition from a range of subject experts, study material, course notes, examination and certification. Bookings for 2021 made in 2020 will be held at the current price.

### Tall Building Fire Safety Management (Business and Mixed Use)

Ideal for high rise business buildings and those with a variety of occupants and business uses, i.e. residential, office, retail, hotel.

19-23 October 2020  
7-11 December 2020  
22-26 February 2021  
24-28 May 2021  
11-15 October 2021  
6-11 December 2021

### Tall Building Fire Safety Management (Residential and Social Housing)

Designed for those managers that are tasked with managing fire safety in social housing and residential high-rise.

22-26 March 2021  
21-25 June 2021

### Tall Building Construction Fire Safety Management

Aimed at anyone within the construction process of high-rise buildings that manages the risk of fire.

11-15 January 2021  
19-23 April 2021  
6-10 September 2021  
8-12 November 2021

**Tall Building Fire Safety Network Ltd**  
**Unit 10, Maple Leaf Business Park, Ramsgate, Kent, UK. CT12 5GD**  
**Contact email: [russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com](mailto:russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com)**

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- ✓ What has happened?
- ✓ Who is taking Command?
- ✓ What is the Crisis Command Structure?
- ✓ What are the priorities?
- ✓ What are the risks?
- ✓ How are we managing safety?
- ✓ How are we managing our reputation?



“ I carry the CrisisBoardroom kit in the back of my vehicle, the case is easy to move around on its wheels.

I utilised the crib sheet for an emergency where we had a ground floor water flood to our main office, this was a small emergency and involved a small limited response team.

I also used the crib sheets in advance of running a full emergency response team meeting to deal with the current pandemic at a meeting at our head office, the information supplied in the kit allowed me to be fully prepared in advance of the meeting, not being an expert myself at dealing with disasters, it was a great help in making sure that I covered all aspects that I needed to cover within the meeting. ”

**Rowland Waddington**  
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## Fire Safety Training & Qualifications

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- Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
- Level 5 Diploma Fire Engineering Design\*
- HTM: Healthcare Premises
- PAS 79: Fire Risk Assessment
- BS 9997 (Formally PAS 7)
- CPD training
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\* Available in 2021

**“ Without doubt, you come away from the course with the knowledge and skills to understand and interpret good principles of fire safety. It gives you the skills to consider the options and the knowledge of where to go for the correct guidance. Excellent! ”**  
*Delegate – Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (Level 4)*

**“ Organised well, good material and presentations delivered by a very experienced trainer in an informative and entertaining way – immediately put at ease ”**  
*Delegate – Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service (Level 3)*

**“ I have come away from this course, as someone who was already a reasonably well qualified and experienced practitioner, feeling that I have actually improved considerably ”**  
*Delegate – Ignis Fire & Resilience Ltd (Level 4)*

**“ Instructor with strong knowledge base supported by clear learning materials, delivered in a relaxed and supportive environment. Really enjoyed the whole course ”**  
*Delegate – Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service (Level 3)*



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## HIGH RISE FIREFIGHTING

Techniques, case studies, innovation and best practice

# Question Time...

13:00 - 14:00 The Panel to answer questions...

### Panellists:

Curtis Massey (US)

Terry Johnson (Dubai Civil Defence)

Adam Course

Mark Reilly (Australia)

Michael Reick (Germany)

Brent Brooks (Canada)



# Conference Agenda

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## WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2020

### HIGH RISE FIREFIGHTING – TECHNIQUES, CASE STUDIES, INNOVATION AND BEST PRACTICE

Chairperson: **Roy Wilsher, NFCC**

- 09:45** Conference on line portal/platform open for delegates to 'arrive'
- 10:00** Welcome and Opening Comments – Conference Chair
- 10:20** Keynote – Merseyside FRS, Feedback from large-scale High-Rise Fire Exercise
- 11:00** Mark Reilly, Australia – Tactics for dealing with external ascending wall fires
- 11:30** Adam Course, UK IFE – Tactics for dealing with an electric car fire in High Rise underground car park
- 12:00** Chris Lowther, CFO Tyne and Wear FRS and Chair of NFCC Operations Committee – Update on high rise operations thinking
- 12:30** Demonstration of Virtual Reality High Rise Firefighting Training from RIVR.
- 13:00** Question Time
- 14:00** Mark Hardingham, CFO Suffolk FRS and Chair of the NFCC Protection committee – Update on the high rise building safety regime
- 14:30** Michael Reick, Germany – Firefighting Smoke Control in High Rise Fires
- 15:00** Brent Brooks, Canada – High Rise Firefighting Nozzle Techniques
- 15:30** Sean DeCrane, Underwriters Laboratories, Mass Timber Buildings – The US Developments.
- 16:00** Question Time
- 16:45** Russ Timpson – Firemark Launch
- 17:00** Close



**ROY WILSHER** OBE QFSM

Roy was appointed as the first Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) in April 2017. In his role as Chair, Roy represents the NFCC in national and international forums. He provides guidance and support to Officers and Fire and Rescue Services all over the United Kingdom. Roy also represents Fire and Rescue in a range of government and sector forums and is the first line of advice to Ministers during major incidents.

Roy's career in the Fire Service has spanned some 35 years. Roy joined London Fire Brigade in 1981 rising to Assistant Commissioner for Community Fire Safety. In 1996 Roy achieved a 1st Class B.Eng(Hons) Fire Safety Engineering. In 1998 Roy became Senior Divisional Fire Safety Officer, responsible for 11 boroughs in North and West London. In 2000 he became a Chartered Engineer. Roy joined Hertfordshire in 2004 and was appointed Chief Fire Officer in 2005 and Director for Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer in 2011. From 2013- 2017 Roy was the Chief Executive for the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.





## GARY OAKFORD

Gary Oakford is the Area Manager for the Prevention Directorate at Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. He joined the service in 1992 and has served at a number of community fire stations in north and central Liverpool. Since 2003, Gary has worked in a range of operational and functional roles including as a Watch Manager with the Incident Management Team, Crosby and Bootle & Netherton Community Fire Stations, and the Operational Equipment Team. He then became Station Manager for the St Helens District and Community Fire Safety, before being promoted to Group Manager within the Knowsley District, Prevention and most recently as the Operational Training Manager with local responsibility for Training and Exercising including a High Risk Exercise in 2019.



**MARK REILLY** has over 35 years' experience in crisis and emergency management working in public sector and private industry as a consultant and as a fire commander in both major metropolitan and regional fire commands. More recently he was the manager of structural fire safety in Australia's largest fire and rescue service. He has managed a number

of multidisciplinary teams supporting Major Infrastructure Projects, Fire Safety Studies, Major Hazard Facilities, Fire Safety Inspections and supported the NSW Cladding Task Force.

Mark has extensive experience and expertise in governance and is a non-executive Director on three boards, one of which, Upstream Energy provides solar powered alternate energy source opportunities for remote installations in regional Australia.

Mark has degrees in Public Sector Management, Applied Management, Emergency Management, Fire Engineering and Executive Leadership. Mark also holds qualifications in Work Health and Safety and Risk Management.

Mark is a Companion Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers and has been active on State, National and International boards and committees for over 25 years.

Mark rides a BMW F800GSA and has ridden the five major deserts of the Australian red centre as well as many, many outback dirt tracks in search of adventure.



## PROF. DR. -ING. MICHAEL REICK

Michael is a regional fire chief in Göppingen, Germany. With his background as a former head of a fire testing institute and work experience in fire safety engineering his topic is the connection between these disciplines and operational firefighting. He worked in numerous research projects regarding smoke spread control in building fires with the aim to enable firefighters to avoid smoke spread into egress routes and to positively influence fire dynamics. He developed the portable smoke blocking device (smoke stopper) which is widely used by fire services around the world.

**Presentation: Smoke spread control with SmokeStoppers – a mandatory task for the fire service**

Portable smoke blocking devices have been used by fire services around the world in thousands of real incidents and saved many lives – civilians and firefighters. The theory behind it and lessons learned from real fireground experience are presented in this presentation.



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## BRENT BROOKS

Brent is currently an acting Captain with Toronto Fire Services. His 24 year career with firefighting started at Pearson Airport, with continuing duties at (De Havilland) and Bombardier Aero Space Crash Fire Rescue teams. He is assigned to Toronto's High Rise Unit and CBRNE team. Brent has developed the IMS, training and RND for High Rise Operations. Brent's experience includes serving on numerous committees all related to High Rise Firefighting. He continues to travel North America attending conferences, symposiums, and hands on training pertaining to High Rise Firefighting. He has spoken on complex building systems and attends the Council of tall buildings when it is in Toronto. Brent shares information with Fire Departments from all over the world and has developed a network with firefighters related to High Rise Firefighting.



## MARK HARDINGHAM QFSM

Chief Fire Officer, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service  
Fire and Public Safety, Suffolk County Council

Mark began his fire service career 30 years ago in Essex, transferring to Suffolk in 2010 where he was appointed Chief Fire Officer in 2013. Within the County Council and alongside his CFO role he has held a broad range of responsibilities including Highways, Passenger Transport, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Community Safety and Health & Safety. Mark has been the Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council Protection & Business Safety Committee since 2017, chairs the County Council Chief Fire Officer's Group and has led several FRS Peer Challenges. On a personal level, Mark is married to Vickie and they have two boys aged 19 and 22. He is a frustrated West Ham fan, even more frustrated golfer and a keen watcher of most sports.



**ADAM COURSE** has been at Avon Fire and Rescue Service for 12 years and has spent many years studying firefighter fatality incidents, serious accidents and where possible near misses.

Since June 2016 Adam has been on a secondment to the IFE and National Operational Guidance/National Operational Learning (NOG/NOL). The IFE Firefighter Safety Database which forms a web-based information/learning database where all available UK firefighter fatality and firefighter near miss information can be accessed, shared and learnt from by interested parties. The Firefighter Safety Database is designed to be a one stop shop for information.

Phase 2 of this project is expanding to an international scale project run by the IFE. Each country would have its own section of the site to highlight the same firefighter safety events. Phase 3 of the project will enable any incident of interest (high rise/tall building fires, wildfires, historic fires, nightclub fires, commercial fires, informal settlement fires, industrial, transport related incidents, HAZMAT etc), not directly linked to firefighter safety, but often with overlapping themes, where mainly multi fatality and/or near multi fatality incident information can be accessed in one place. The various technical fire safety and fire engineering themes and lessons are expected to be a prominent feature in phase 3.

Adam has been part of the branch committee for the IFE Mid-Western branch since it was reactivated 11 years ago, holding position of Membership Officer, Events Co-ordinator and is the current Branch Vice President and International General Assembly (IGA) Representative. He has also been IGA Vice Chair and Chair. Adam has presented at a number of conferences, seminars and other events both internationally and nationally.

Adam holds an honours degree in Environmental Science gained at The University of Plymouth in 2000 and is a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.







### CHRIS LOWTHER CFO

Chris started his career as an operational firefighter based at Gateshead Community Fire Station in 1997.

He has an impressive and varied background in training, community safety and operations and has taken a lead role in a number of national resilience programmes.

He was appointed Chief Fire Officer in February 2017, taking up the post in April 2017. Chris has held a number of roles within the fire service, including Station Officer for community safety, during which time he was instrumental in introducing home safety checks which have significantly reduced fires in the home.

After joining the Strategic Management Team in 2009, Chris worked as an Area Manager and then in 2013 was appointed Assistant Chief Officer, assuming overall responsibility for services across five districts, operations, community safety and fire safety.

Chris chairs the National Fire Chiefs Committee (NFCC), Operational Coordination Committee (OCC), the lead body for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and sits on a number of NFCC groups including the NFCC Steering and NFCC Community Risk Programme. Chris was also the project executive for the national guidance work on transport.

He led the introduction of Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs), day crewing close-call shift patterns, Cobra Coldcut technology and more efficient methods of staffing appliances while facilitating first-class firefighter training.

Policy and collaboration are integral to Chris's current role and will continue to be a focus going forward. He works collaboratively with Northumbria Police and other key partners, and the implementation of the Integrated Risk Management Plan is an important part of his remit.

Under his leadership, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service will focus on workforce reform and broadening and strengthening our contribution to our community.



### SEAN DECRANE

Sean DeCrane retired as a 25+ year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Fire. He served in various roles including the Director of Training and Chief of Operations retiring as a Battalion Chief. Sean is currently the Manager of Industry Relations for the Underwriters Laboratories Building Life Safety, Security

and Technologies Division.

Sean has been involved in the research at Underwriters Laboratories and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He served on the UL Fire Council and is a member of the UL Fire Fighter Safety Research Institute's Advisory Board.

Chief DeCrane also represented the International Association of Fire Fighters in the International Code Council process and has served on the 2009, 2012, 2015 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.



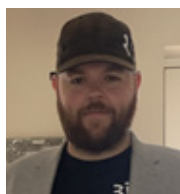
### RUSS TIMPSON

Russ is the founder and CEO of Crisisboardroom. He is the secretary of the Tall Building Fire Safety Network. RT began his fire career with Kent Fire Brigade. During this time RT completed the Fire Engineering Degree Course at South Bank University.

On leaving the Fire Service, RT took up the position of Head of Safety for Virgin Atlantic Airways, leading a multi-disciplinary team of safety, health and environmental specialists. Highlights included opening new airline routes to South Africa and the Caribbean.

In 1999, RT was headhunted by BAA (UK airport operator) to lead the response to the major fire at Terminal 1, Heathrow Airport. In the following five years, RT contributed to several major airport construction projects; including the skyway at Gatwick Airport and T5 at Heathrow Airport.

RT was awarded the HSE's award for European Safety and Health at Work achievement 1998 and European Strategic Risk Management Award 2004, International Fire professional of the Year 2015. CIR International Risk Management Award 2017. RT is the originator of the Firemark Initiative.



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