“Supporting a total ban on combustible building materials”
Welcome

2018 WAS AN IMPRESSIVE YEAR FOR THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION. IN OUR MISSION TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT IN THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE, PROPERTY, BUSINESS AND THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS.

The Grenfell Tower tragedy represents everything that could go wrong in the world of fire safety, so we are striving to redress that balance. We collaborate with and advise government, are members of national fire committees, work alongside the National Fire Chiefs Council and sit on the Defence Fire Risk Management Board.

Our Hot Work Passport training programme was highlighted as an example of good practice by Dame Judith Hackitt in her Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

We applaud Sir Martin Moore-Bick and his team for doing a thorough job on the Grenfell Inquiry, but it is beginning to drag – and residents and families need closure as soon as possible. This cannot become another Hillsborough. If it’s just a question of resources we urge government to find them – now. We also welcome the government response to Dame Judith Hackitt’s inquiry, but we believe this does not go far enough – and we will not rest until we have persuaded the government to implement a total ban on all combustible materials on high-risk buildings – not just those over 18 metres.

Here’s a look back at 2018 and what we accomplished.
We needed to ensure our fire training was delivered to the highest possible standards.

LISA WHITBY, WORKPLACE SERVICES ITV

Training

THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION’S TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES ARE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, ASSESSED AND APPROVED BY LLOYDS REGISTER AND CERTIFIED TO BS EN ISO 9001:2015. WE DELIVER ALL OUR COURSES TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD RECRUITING THE MOST UP TO DATE TRAINERS TO DEVELOP OUR EXPERTISE.

The aftermath of the Grenfell tragedy continued to increase the demand for training and risk services. In response to this our bi-monthly seminars ensure the market is kept informed of inquiries, reports and changes in regulations and guidance.

2018 saw a 51% increase in courses run and a 68% increase in people trained.

ITV – WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

ITV is the UK’s largest commercial broadcaster and the biggest independent producer of programmes in the UK. It has three main locations in London, Manchester and Leeds, with 11 regional newsrooms and 18 smaller sites.

In January 2018 ITV appointed the Fire Protection Association to deliver its fire training for three years, focusing on two topics:

The Hot Work Passport was developed by us in conjunction with employers and contractors. It trains the holder of the resulting permit to mitigate fire risk when carrying out potentially dangerous “hot work” (a potential fire hazard when cutting or welding).

It is based on the approach taken by Scandinavian countries, where there are legislative requirements for training and refresher training for those undertaking hot work.

Last year the Hot Work Passport was highlighted as an example of best practice by Dame Judith Hackitt in her Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety.

It is valid for five years and since being introduced in 2007, over 2850 Hot Work Passports have been issued, and adopted by over 200 contractors.

EVACUATION MARSHAL TRAINING – a tailored training programme at every ITV site, highlighting how to evacuate a building and effectively use a fire extinguisher

EVACUATION CHAIR TRAINING – training for employees nominated to assist non-walking colleagues from the building as part of a personal emergency evacuation plan (PEEP).

HOT WORK PASSPORT SCHEME

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Fire advisory services

Our advice is recognised by clients as independent, expert, collaborative and impartial, focusing on property risk and supporting business continuity, as well as human safety. This differentiates our services from others in the market and provides clients with additional value.

In 2014 we were awarded National Security Inspectorate (NSI) Gold level certification to the BAFE SP205 accreditation scheme for Life Safety Fire Risk Assessment. This scheme gives assurance and confidence in the quality to those commissioning fire risk assessments. The use of accredited service providers will become of even greater importance as implementation of the recommendations in Dame Judith Hackitt’s review gathers pace.

As a trusted provider of fire consultancy services and with close links to the insurance industry our experts are engaged in a wide range of projects. These include the development of fire strategies and fire safety manuals for complex sites and premises, compartmentation surveys and fire doors surveys.

THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN OFFERING FIRE ADVISORY SERVICES FOR OVER 30 YEARS, COVERING FIRE RISK STRATEGIES, FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS, AND DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERES REGULATIONS (DSEAR).

CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION – FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Following a rigorous appointment process, we were engaged in 2016 as one of the preferred suppliers for fire risk assessments across the Corporation’s extensive property portfolio. The following year we embarked upon fire risk assessments of all areas of the Barbican Centre, the largest performing arts centre of its kind in Europe. It sits on a 36 acre site, housing three cinemas, a library, restaurants, conference halls, an art gallery, a theatre and over 2000 flats.

Our approach to this significant project was to undertake assessments for discrete areas of the premises, plus a separate assessment which considered issues common to the entire estate, such as management activities, maintenance regimes and training.

Following successful completion of the project, we were engaged to support implementation of key recommendations and undertake a thorough review of the plans to highlight all fire safety features. This included compartmentation lines, detection systems, fire safety signs, emergency lights and portable fire extinguishers.

“providing invaluable assistance in reviewing our venues and helping us prioritise our action plan”

TERENCE SHORT, PRINCIPAL FIRE SAFETY ADVISOR,
CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION
The knowledge and experience of their sprinkler technicians shows in the detailed report

PAUL BERRY, SALES DIRECTOR, JOHNSON CONTROLS, FIRE SUPPRESSION UK & IRELAND

Laboratory testing facilities
THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION’S SITES, AT MORETON-IN-MARSH AND BLOCKLEY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE, OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF TESTING FACILITIES, PROVIDING RESULTS THAT EXCEED LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES.

‘PROOF OF CONCEPT’ AND DEVELOPMENTAL RESEARCH
We offer unrivalled facilities to those seeking protection solutions for high-hazard situations. Often working in areas without established standards, we have the reputation, expertise and experience to recreate hazardous risk scenarios for a range of tests.

In 2018 we undertook extensive studies for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and suppliers, including BAE Systems, for their fleet renewal plans. We are proud to be one of the eight members of the Naval Authority Industry Alliance (NAIA) and hold the preferred supplier status to military through the Framework Agreement for Technical Support (FATS/5).

SPRINKLER HEAD TESTING
Sprinklers are only an effective way of controlling fires if properly maintained. We test in accordance with the Loss Prevention Council (LPC) Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations. LPC is owned by the Fire Protection Association, so as the authors and distributors of these standards we collated a database of users, keeping the industry at the forefront of newly developing technology.

Due to awareness-raising of best practice, our testing requests increased in 2018. As a result of purchasing additional equipment and employing more engineers, we tested over 6000 sprinkler heads.

Current regulations only require sprinkler testing every 25 years, but it’s not uncommon for heads to be damaged, corroded or painted, so legislation may need to change. We have embarked on a major study with Tyco/Johnson Controls, testing a group of installed sprinklers every five years to ascertain the optimum time period for their replacement.

TESTING RIGS
In 2018 the Fire Protection Association built two rigs for commercial BS 8414 testing, which evaluates the effectiveness against fire of external cladding on buildings. Our research, sponsored by the Association of British Insurers (ABI) in response to the Grenfell Tower fire, had highlighted previous concerns with the 8414 test and led to the review being undertaken by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

A decision to offer manufacturers and installers our testing rigs for commercial use was taken as a result of concerns about the UK’s lack of availability of these facilities. This helped increase market capacity and provided results within two weeks. We also built a half-sized rig to test bespoke scenarios, such as the retrofitting of a window, to help replicate a real fire situation.
IN 2018 THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION’S EVENTS PROVED MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN EVER. OUR PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION ENABLES US TO SHOWCASE THE BEST INDUSTRY EXPERTS AS SPEAKERS, CREATING A PLATFORM FOR TOPICAL DEBATE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

We hosted the Fire Sector Summit and returned to FIREX for the tenth consecutive year. We ran three member events, four in-depth seminars and topical webinars covering kitchen duct work in commercial kitchens, modern methods of construction, managing fire risk in care homes and the implementation of the Hackitt review.

The Summit brought together the best in the business, with over 150 delegates joining a panel of experts in a packed lecture theatre at the Institute of Civil Engineers. The finale was an evening reception at the House of Commons, addressed by Fire Minister, Nick Hurd MP.

The Summit came at a crucial time. The industry was awaiting the government’s implementation plan for the Hackitt Review, the review of combustibility ban. The first part of the Grenfell public inquiry was drawing to a close and there were the unknown implications of Brexit.

The event ended with an address by the then chair of the Fire Protection Association, Chris Hanks. He referred to “Grenfell’s profound effect” still being felt after 18 months, posing the question “Why is it always the case that the sector finds things are not right after a disaster?”.

Members range from individuals to small businesses and global corporates needing expertise on fire, health and safety. Benefits include our journal, Fire & Risk Management (F&RM) and discounts on our seminars, fire safety resources and training courses. The free networking events are always well received, providing an opportunity for members to meet fellow industry professionals and hear first-hand from Fire Protection Association experts on topical and emerging issues.

We undertook an extensive membership survey and are upgrading our benefits, which will be launched in 2019.

F&RM had a rebrand, with its editorial programme changing to feature a more diverse range of subjects including security, environment, sustainability, climate change, hazards and building protection.

It also launched in digital format, boasting a powerful search function, download, share and bookmark options and the ability to add notes or highlight sections.
RISCAuthority is an annually funded scheme supported by a significant group of UK insurers, conducting research to support the development and dissemination of best practice in the protection of property and business. Its £1 million research programme is administered by the Fire Protection Association under the management of Technical Director, Dr Jim Glockling.

Business and Property Protection Portal

The Business and Property Protection Portal uses “big data” and real-life statistical sources to produce a risk report for any UK organisation. Its technology analyses perils for fire, flood, arson and security (crime and cybercrime), and advises on costs in the event of fire damage. The Portal can be personalised for any business. They are able to list their products and services via the online tool to promote property protection, risk mitigation and business resilience to their customers.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service

The Kent Fire and Rescue Service was first to sign up for the portal. Businesses in their local area are being made aware that they’ve created “a digital one stop shop for companies in Kent looking to safeguard their livelihood against a multitude of hazards, from fire to flooding, ongoing building works to electrical equipment, or unoccupied buildings and listed building restrictions”. It’s proving a quick and easy way to identify hazards before they become an issue, and as Kent says, it has “never been easier to keep your business safe”.

Toxicity

We published a well-received research paper on the toxicity of building cladding, which called for a radical change in building standards and product approval. It was presented in partnership with the University of Central Lancashire and funded by the UK insurance industry through RISCAuthority.

This work was offered to government and the Grenfell Inquiry to assist in future discussions on the merits of the specification of non-combustible materials in buildings. We expect it to prompt further research into whether the evaluation of fire toxicity should become an integral part of the building products approval process.

“regulations don’t protect occupants from toxic gases burning on the outside of buildings”

Dr Jim Glockling, Technical Director, Fire Protection Association
“As respected experts in fire protection, working with them gave our scheme added credibility.”

CHRIS AUGER, SCHEMES MANAGER, BAFE

Working with others – fulfilling our remit

THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION UNDERTAKES A RANGE OF ‘PRO BONO’ PROJECTS, INCLUDING WORK WITH BAFE ON COMMERCIAL KITCHEN FIRE PROTECTION AND THE KITCHEN EXTRACT DUCTWORK SCHEME.

KITCHEN EXTRACT DUCTWORK CLEANING

The impact of fires spreading from catering facilities into kitchen extract ductwork, due to poor cleaning standards, continues to be a significant risk for premises owners, occupants and insurers.

This issue was addressed by RISCAuthority, which worked with the Fire Protection Association to develop a certification scheme with BRE (accredited by UKAS). The result was LPS 2084 - for inspection cleaning and maintenance of ductwork systems. Later liaison with the Building and Engineering Services Association (BESA) led to a second scheme, Ventilation Hygiene Elite (VHE), designed to ensure appropriate cleaning standards are maintained, while monitoring performance.

BAFE SP206 THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR KITCHEN FIRE PROTECTION

Our Technical Director Dr Jim Glockling led work with BAFE to develop a certification scheme for companies designing, installing, commissioning and maintaining catering suppression systems – BAFE SP206. This recognises that a fire starting in a kitchen, that goes unchecked, can cause major disruption to a business and may result in the total loss of a building, costing potentially millions of pounds. The scheme has been well received and recently adopted by the UKAS accredited body National Security Inspectorate (NSI).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Jonathan O’Neill – Managing Director
Dr James Glockling – Technical Director
David Brotherton – Chief Operating Officer

BOARD

John Smeaton - Chair, appointed January 2019
Chris Hanks - Chair, retired January 2019

Board non-executive directors

Brian Secrett – Chief Underwriting Officer, Tokio Millennium
David Williams – Technical Director, Axa Insurance
Neil Clutterbuck – Chief Underwriting Officer, Allianz
Paul Sullivan – Consultant, CTU Aviva
Joanne Hills – Property Product Manager, RSA
Ian Shelley – Class of Business Manager Performance Management, Lloyds
Adreena Parkin Coates – NFCC Policy
Nick Raynsford - Independent non executive director
“The Hot Work Passport scheme was developed in response to calls from industry for a national benchmark of fire safety knowledge.”

DAME JUDITH HACKITT

BUILDING A SAFER FUTURE
INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FIRE SAFETY