



Federation Newsletter

Spring 2019

Number 7

EVENTS

- 22 May 2019
AGM London
- 18-20 June 2019
FIREX ExCel London
- 18-19 September 2019
Emergency Services
Show NEC Hall 5

Directors

Michael Harper – Chair
Andrew Lynch
Dave Russel
Dennis Davis
Jon O'Neil
Mike Wood
Paul Fuller
Ronnie King
Susan Lowrie
Tom Roche

Links

<http://www.firesectorfederation.co.uk>

Dennis Davis
firstfirecall@aol.com

Jo Griffin
jgriffin@thefpa.co.uk

Annual General Meeting 2019

Notice is hereby given that the Fire Sector Federation Annual General Meeting will be held on 22 May 2019 starting at 10:30. The Agenda and further details will follow in the near future.

Forum Meeting 15 April 2019

At the last Forum meeting members were informed of the ongoing changes taking place in our organisation together with reports of external liaison with officials in Home Office, MHCLG and BEIS.



Progress was also reported on advancing the policy supporting Accredited Third Party Certification following the successful symposium held in the House of Lords on 7 March 2019. The Federation having received funding from members has been able to engage Barrister in Law David Stotesbury to provide advice and opinion on the matter of statutory defence. It is intended to report further at the coming AGM.

Building and Fire Sector Competency

Work, which commenced nearly a year ago to consider competency in the light of the Grenfell Tower fire, involving many people across the wide range of building and fire sector interests is now reaching a crucial point as final reports are submitted to the Steering Group.

Coordinated by the Construction Industry Council as a direct response to Dame Judith Hackett's call for improvements the 13 groups, each looking at a specific task, have considered how to raise the bar and sustain it for those working on higher risk buildings.

Many members of the Federation have directly contributed into what will be a substantial report to the Secretary of State on how industry can offer the public reassurance that their homes are safe.

Advice on accredited conformity assessment and a new framework standard has also been given by UKAS and BSI who are both seen as having key roles alongside government, enforcers, duty holders and an industry competence group within a new safety system.

Assuming acceptance of industry's views implementation will follow whilst the Government itself commences consultations on its own proposals to introduce an improved system of building safety.

There is considerable detailed information available across all 13 work groups. Contact Dennis Davis

Government News

MHCLG

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/building-safety-programme>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-methods-of-construction-working-group-developing-a-definition-framework>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-amendment-regulations-2018-frequently-asked-questions>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ban-on-combustible-materials>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-environmental-checks>

gov.uk.email@
notifications.service.gov.uk

DoE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-building-bulletin-100-design-for-fire-safety-in-schools>

Emergency Times Survey

<http://emergencyservicetimes.com/procurement-trends-survey-seeks-feedback-from-blue-light-sector/>

Fire Response Times

In a consultation that closed on 17 April the Federation commented that reports related to heat and smoke damage should be included in the response time data supplied by fire and rescue services and that the time should be inclusive of call handling times by operators.

Procurement

During the our last Forum meeting members agreed that Alistair Brown who is currently involved in the Home Office Fire Commercial Transformation Programme should represent FRS Federation procurement interests in the FCTP. Contact Alistair@angloco.co.uk

Architect's Fire Protection Knowledge

A study released in March has attracted wide interest in the fire sector after it revealed results like only 8% of architects approached were able to correctly define four basic fire protection terms.

Many comments are circulating on these findings although the robustness of the study is not known. The study is reported in the April 2019 edition of FIRE magazine. www.fire-magazine.com

Inside Housing

Inside Housing magazine has launched a high profile campaign to help residents in the 176 private residential buildings that have cladding similar to Grenfell Tower. The aims include a firm 2 year timescale to remove the material with government funding and reimbursement of costs already incurred to remain safe.

While supportive of resolving the continuing difficult and dangerous situation that exists for private tenants the Federation also wishes to ensure those responsible for this situation remain accountable.

Meeting MHCLG

Recently Jonathan O'Neill, Tom Roche and Dennis Davis had a meeting with Chandru Dissanayeke and Catherine Ryan of MHCLG.

This was an insightful discussion looking broadly at building issues across government and industry on matters like assurance, standards, conformity and regulation. It was helpful in understanding the relationship and perspectives of both parties taking forward responses to the Hackitt review. Chandru has been invited to address members after the AGM on the Building Safety Programme.

Queen's Award for International Trade

Warm congratulations to Coltraco Ultrasonics who received prestigious recognition of their outstanding contribution to UK trade. A Federation member the company exports 89% of its products abroad. Very well done!

