

Comments from a European Citizen on the Paper : “An Updated International Survey of Computer Models for Fire and Smoke” (by Stephen M. Olenick and Douglas J. Carpenter, JPFE, Vol. 13 Number 2)

I would like to point out the remarkable effort and the added value represented by the recently published computer model survey compared to the original review dated 1992. Having been involved in the management of a database related to fire safety in tunnels, I know how difficult it is to get adequate information. Thus I was not surprised, when reading this paper, to identify “missing” fire models that deserved an entry.

Although we are using in Europe some of the models mentioned in the paper, due to the existing regulatory framework in the EU and as a consequence of recent occurrences of very serious fires in European traffic tunnels, there are two categories of fire models that have experienced intensive development at the European level and that have not been listed. These are:

1. Models devoted to land use planning around hazardous sites (estimating safe distances in case of worst-case fire scenarios affecting the surroundings of industrial premises by heat radiation and fire plume dispersion)
2. Models dedicated to fire risk assessment in tunnels (some US models that have capabilities in this area also deserve to be listed).

I have no miraculous recipe for providing a better incentive so that model developers in Europe or the US will deliver the required information to a database. The website made available for that purpose by the authors (www.firemodelsurvey.com) already seems to be adequate. Some progress might possibly be achieved by making additional live links with websites containing the original modeling research work (see for instance www.etnfit.net, and <http://landuseplanning.jrc.it/home.html>).

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