SFPE

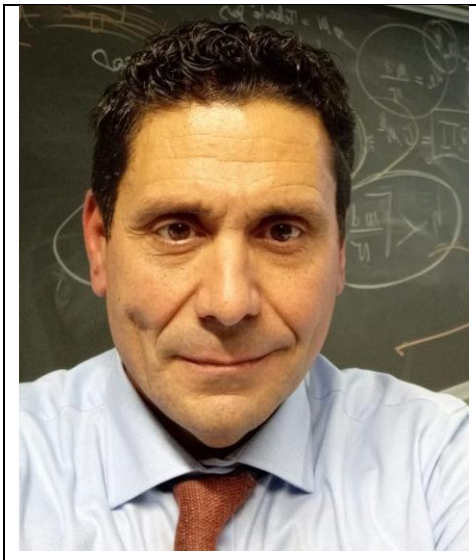
Engineering Solutions Symposium

Fire Protection of Cultural and Heritage Sites

November 12-13, 2026

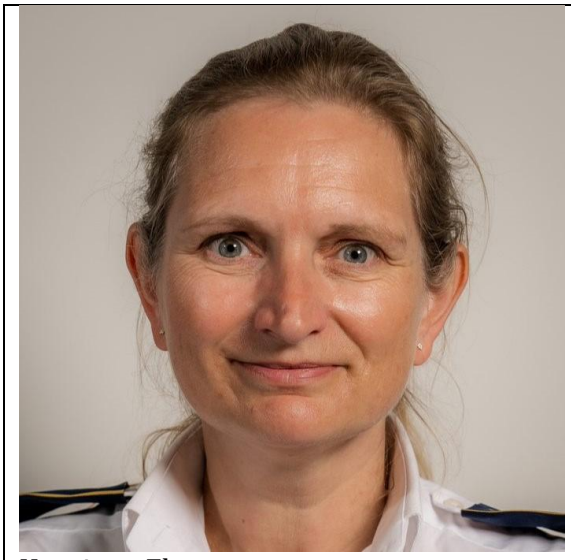
Venice, Italy

Speaker List

 Warren Bonisch Fire Protection Engineer, Fellow WJE Fire & Life Safety - USA	Degreed BS/MS in Fire Protection Engineering from University of Maryland; 40 years of fire and life safety code consulting in the USA and overseas. SFPE Fellow and Chair of SFPE development of a guide on assessment of existing buildings.
 Piergiacomo Cancelliere MD, PE, PhD Italian National Fire Rescue and Service - CNVVF, Italy	Piergiacomo Cancelliere began his professional career in 1998 as an electrical engineer, working for industrial automation companies and ABB SACE. From 2001 to 2006, he was a research assistant in electrical machines and drives at the University of Cassino. In April 2006, he joined the Italian National Fire and Rescue Service (Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco, CNVVF) as a fire officer. Following operational service at the Frosinone Fire Brigade Command, he served from 2011 to 2018 at the Central Directorate for Fire Prevention and Technical Safety, within the former Centre for Studies and Experiments. His work focused on fire safety strategies, active fire protection systems, and the qualification and certification of fire protection products and systems. He represented the CNVVF at European Union level on fire safety matters related to the Construction Products Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 305/2011). He has also served on several technical committees of UNI and CEI, the Italian standardization bodies, contributing expertise on fire safety. He actively contributed to the development of the Italian Fire Prevention Code. From 2018 to 2020, he served as Deputy Commander of the Italian Fire Academy (Istituto Superiore Antincendi) in Rome, where he was responsible for organizing advanced training

	courses for CNVVF executive and managerial personnel. Following his promotion in August 2021, he served as Commander of the Rimini Fire Brigade before being appointed Commander of the Latina Fire Brigade in October 2024. Since 2022, he has also served as an adjunct professor of "Fire Science" at the University of Bozen (Bolzano).

 Renata Codello General Secretary Fondazione Giorgio Cini	A former Director of Institutional Affairs at the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Renata Codello is an architect and, since 11 June 2020, a member of the Bank of Italy Board of Directors. In her long career she has held several important positions: Superintendent of Architectural and Landscape Heritage of Venice and its Lagoon (2006 to 2014) and of the Eastern Veneto (2009); Superintendent of Fine Arts and Landscape in Rome and Director of the Regional Secretariat of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism for the Veneto (2015 to March 2018). After graduating from the I.U.A.V. Venice, with a first-class honours in architecture, she carried out research and held a temporary technical position at the same university. She completed her PhD in 1996 and was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) from 2013 to 2018. She also received an honorary PhD from the University of East London in 2018.

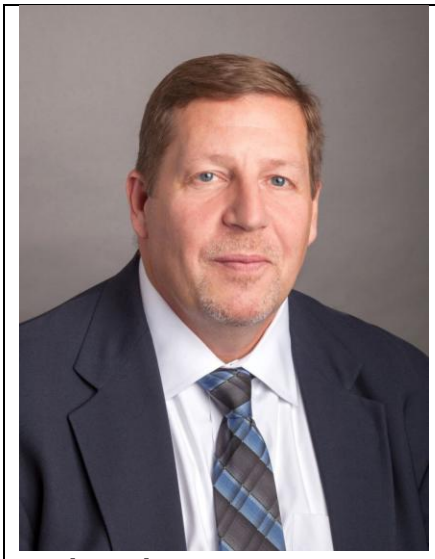
 Henriette Elmer Head of Fire Engineering Greater Copenhagen Fire Department	Henriette Elmer is a highly experienced professional engineer and incident Commander with extensive expertise in fire protection in relation to historic buildings and their reconstruction. She is also member of professional forums and networks focused on fire safety, protection of cultural heritage, and rebuilding efforts following major incidents.

 Deborah Freeland FSFPE, CPCU, ARM, FIAE Gallagher	Debbie Freeland is an Area Senior Vice President with Gallagher, one of the world's largest insurance brokerage and risk management consulting firms, and a senior property risk engineer with over 40 years of experience in fire protection consulting. A Fellow of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, she has extensive experience working with a variety of international clients including museums, libraries, places of worship, and historic buildings to develop risk-based fire protection strategies that support preservation of cultural heritage. She is a long-term member and past Chair of the National Fire Protection Association's Committee on the Protection of Cultural Resources, responsible for NFPA 909 and 914 for the protection of museums, libraries, places of worship, and historic buildings. Her work has contributed to advancing approaches that balance fire protection with conservation of historic fabric and high-value collections across diverse regulatory environments. Debbie is a frequent international speaker and has presented widely throughout Europe and the United States. She has also authored numerous articles on property and fine arts risk management and remains active in both local and international SFPE initiatives. Her current focus includes addressing elevated fire risks associated with construction and renovation activities at cultural heritage sites.
 Caterina Frisone PhD in Architecture University Iuav of Venice	Caterina Frisone directs the Master's in Architecture and Health at the Iuav University of Venice, a programme she founded after a five-year experience (2017-2022) in the British healthcare system. She holds a PhD from Oxford Brookes University, UK (2021), a Master of Architecture from Syracuse University, USA (1987), and a Master of Architecture from the Politecnico di Milano (1986). He has taught in Italy (in Venice at Iuav University of Venice, 1992-2007 and in Rome, at the Catholic University of America, 1999-2003; Cornell University, 2004; University of Maryland, 2009-2010), in the United States (Syracuse University, 1986-89; Catholic University of America, 2007; University of Maryland, 2009-2010), and in the United Kingdom (Oxford Brookes University, 2016-2020). Since 2023, he has directed the Master's program in Architecture and Health, where courses on the fundamentals of fire physics and the principles of prevention in healthcare facilities (combustion, flammability, fire development, prevention, and fire regulations) are taught. She ensures that all students acquire this knowledge and apply it to their thesis projects, with reference to the Italian regulatory framework, namely the technical standards of Presidential Decree 231/2001. No. 151 of 1 August 2011, as a basis for ensuring adequate levels of fire safety.

 Steve Gwynne PhD University of Greenwich	Steve Gwynne is currently Professor of Evacuation and Pedestrian Dynamics at the University of Greenwich and Lund University. Steve has 30 years of experience in pedestrian dynamics, human behaviour in fire and evacuation modelling. He has worked in government roles (e.g. National Research Council Canada and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, US), other academic roles (Memorial University (Canada), King's College, London (UK), Univ. Maryland(US), Univ. Waterloo (Canada)) and in consultancy (e.g. Movement Strategies, UK; Hughes Associates, US). He has 100+ peer-reviewed publications and co-authors several chapters in the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) Handbook and was a co-author of the SFPE Guides to Human Behaviour in Fire and Very Tall Buildings (both 2nd Edition).

 Gregory Harrington PE NFPA	Gregory Harrington is a Principal Engineer at the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. As the staff liaison for the Technical Committees on Cultural Resources and Safety to Life, he is responsible for the development of several cornerstone industry standards. His primary code responsibilities include NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code), NFPA 909 (Code for the Protection of Cultural Resource Properties), and NFPA 914 (Code for the Protection of Historic Structures). Prior to joining the NFPA in 1996, Gregory built a diverse foundation in public safety and private engineering. He served as a fire protection engineer for the San Antonio Fire Department in Texas and worked in Washington, D.C., as a graduate intern fire protection engineer with Schirmer Engineering Corporation. Driven by a deep commitment to public safety, he also dedicated 12 years of service as a volunteer and on-call firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Gregory is a Registered Professional Engineer. He holds both a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

 Johan Hanberger Fire Safety Specialist National Property Board	Johan Hanberger is a Fire Engineer and Fire Safety Specialist at the National Property Board of Sweden. He holds a Fire Engineering degree from Lund University and has more than 20 years of experience in fire safety, including roles as a fire consultant, Head of Community Protection within the fire and rescue services, and Duty Chief Officer. His work covers all aspects of fire safety, from requirements definition and design to renovation and long-term operation. He primarily works with complex and heritage-listed buildings, where modern safety requirements must be carefully balanced with the preservation of cultural values.

 Mark Hopkins PE, FSPFE Summit Fire National Consulting, LLC	Mark is Engineering Director for SFC and has over 30 years of experience in fire protection engineering and code consulting. Mark co-authored the FPRF reports titled “Identifying Challenges to the Fire Service in Storage Facilities” and “Quantification of Water Supply Adjustments.” Mark is currently working on the FPRF project titled “Landscape Analysis of Automatic Storage Retrieval Systems and Fire Protection Guidance” and has served on numerous FPRF project technical panels. He has also authored chapters in the NFPA 13 Handbook, the NFPA Fire Protection Handbook, and many other documents. He has served on numerous NFPA and SFPE technical committees, including but not limited to NFPA 13 (SSD, SSI, AAC, and HBS), NFPA 72 (IDS) and NFPA 25. Mark has presented technical reports to a variety of NFPA Technical Committees on a broad range of subjects and has presented at numerous national and international conferences. Mark is a Fire Prevention Commissioner in the State of Maryland and a member-atlarge for the SFPE Board of Directors.

 Grunde Jomaas PhD Fire & Risk Alliance	Grunde Jomaas is a fire safety scientist and Executive Director (UK & Europe) at Fire & Risk Alliance. He holds a PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University and is an award-winning mentor, educator, and communicator. Jomaas advises governments, research agencies, and industry on fire safety in a sustainability-driven society. His work bridges fundamental combustion science and real-world applications, with current research focusing on photovoltaics (PV), battery energy storage systems (BESS), and biobased materials. He has held senior academic positions across Europe and is widely recognized for advancing performance-based fire engineering through experimental research and international collaboration.
 William Koffel PE, FSFPE, SASHE Koffel Associates	Bill Koffel is President of Koffel Associates, a fire protection and life safety engineering design and consulting firm, recognized as an expert in the fire protection and life safety aspects of codes and standards. Headquartered in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, the firm provides consulting; engineering design & construction administration; codes & standards development; seminar development & training; product testing & evaluation / representation; and litigation support to public and private clients worldwide. Bill remains active in the development process of the industry's governing codes, standards and design guidelines including International Code Council (ICC), NFPA, Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). As former code official with the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, he was conducted licensure, certification, and accreditation surveys of various health care facilities. Bill serves on numerous NFPA Technical Committees including serving as the Chair of the NFPA Life Safety Technical Committee on Health Care Occupancies and he is also a member of the ICC Committee on Healthcare.
	Christopher Marrion is a Fire & Disaster Risk Management Consultant dedicated to protecting our cultural and natural heritage from fire, disasters and climate change. Through his work as Founder/Director of Marrion Fire & Risk Consulting, he applies a risk-informed, practical, sustainable and cost-effective approach that incorporates traditional and Indigenous knowledge, builds awareness and capacity, and engages local communities and resources in helping to protect their heritage on numerous projects. He is the lead author of UNESCO's Fire Risk Management Guide: Protecting Cultural and Natural Heritage from Fire (2024). For over 35 years he has worked worldwide with heritage



Christopher Marrion
PE, F-SFPE, MScFPE
Marrion Fire & Risk Consulting

organizations (UNESCO, ICCROM, UNDRR, WMF, amongst others), public and private entities, and Ministries of Culture on hazard/risk assessments, fire/disaster risk management strategies, emergency response, capacity building and training. He has written and presented widely on protecting heritage from fire. Chris has been involved with SFPE throughout his career, including co-authoring both editions of SFPE's Engineering Guide to Performance-Based Fire Protection. He served on FEMA's Building Performance Assessment Team following 9/11, is a past Director of the National Fire Heritage Center, and continues as an active member of various committees, including on NFPA 72 (Special Expert) and on various NYC Building Code committees.



Luciano Nigro
Professional Fire Engineer
Jensen Hughes

LUCIANO NIGRO, Senior fire engineer and technical manager of Jensen Hughes Italy srl, Luciano is graduated as PhD in Chemical Engineering with honours from the University of Padua in 1975. After a few years of experience in the technical insurance sector, he founded a company operating for analysis and control of risks in both the industrial and commercial fields and established a collaborative relationship with Hughes Associates Inc., at the time chaired by never forgotten Phil Di Nenno. In 2001 he started a specific collaboration with the Marioff srl company, for the development in Italy of high fog water mist fire protection systems. Since 2011 he has fully resumed his role in Jensen Hughes Italy Srl as Technical Manager consultant in Fire Safety Engineering.



Nicholas Ozog
PE, MS, FSFPE
WJE

Mr. Nicholas E. Ozog, P.E., is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer with approximately two decades of experience in fire and life safety engineering. He earned a Master's degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland in 2007. He routinely applies performance-based fire protection strategies in situations where prescriptive code compliance is impractical, utilizing advanced fire and egress modeling to address complex life safety and property protection challenges. He has extensive experience resolving complex fire protection issues for clients through science-based, technology-driven, and risk-informed decision-making approaches. His work includes developing and conducting fire risk assessments for existing buildings that incorporate client objectives and stakeholder requirements. Mr. Ozog is a principal voting member of multiple NFPA technical committees, including NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 30 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, and the NFPA Committee on Fire Tests which incorporates NFPA 285. He also participates in ICC committees on adaptive reuse and existing buildings and is part of the SFPE Existing Building Task Group. Mr. Ozog also serves on the Program Committee for the SFPE Engineering Solutions Symposium on Fire Protection of Cultural and Heritage Sites.



Morten Moelgaard Schmidt
Fire Safety Consultant
Jensen Hughes DK

Morten M. Schmidt is a trained carpenter and subsequently civil engineer from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), specializing in fire safety. Morten is employed by Jensen Hughes Denmark as fire safety consultant and technical lead. He works primarily on major renovation projects in Denmark, such as shopping malls, airport extensions, museums, etc. In addition, he teaches courses for fire consultants in Denmark, teaching qualitative documentation methods for function-based fire safety design. Morten is involved in the renovation and reconstruction of the Danish Stock Exchange after the fire in 2024 as the project lead for the fire safety design as well as the fire safety measures on the construction site.



Eric Tonicello
Structural and Fire Engineer
ISI

Eric is a partner and founder of the company "ISI - Engineering and Fire Safety" in Lausanne, which has been active in Switzerland since 2014 in the fields of fire protection and fire engineering and employs 9 staff members, primarily engineers.



Jose Torero
FSFPE, PhD
UCL

Professor José L. Torero is Professor Civil Engineering and Head of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering at University College London. He works in the field of fire safety where he specializes in complex environments such as complex urban environments, novel architectures, new construction materials, critical infrastructure, aircraft and spacecraft. José is a Chartered Engineer (UK), a Registered Professional Engineer in Queensland, a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (UK), The Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK), The Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (USA), the Institution of Fire Engineers (UK) and the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK).



Benjamin Truchot

Currently deputy director of the fire, dispersion and explosion department in Ineris, Benjamin is an engineer in mechanics with a specialisation in fluid mechanics and thermochemistry (INSA Rouen and CORIA). He also has a PhD in Energy and reactive flows (IFP and INP Toulouse). Since 2006, he has worked as a fire engineer at Ineris, using both experimental and numerical approaches. He was the manager of several national research projects on underground safety and introduced the risks associated with new energy carriers in tunnels. Another important topic he works on is the environmental consequences of fire, especially after large fires in France, Notre-Dame, and

PhD Ineris	NL/Lubrizol;, and he has published many documents on this topic. He was involved in numerous studies on the fire safety of highly specialised buildings. Benjamin is a member of ISO TC92 SC2 and SC3, Benjamin is the convenor of TC92/SC3/WG6. He also chairs the French mirror committee of ISO TC92.

 Wojciech Wegrzynski Professor of ITB ITB	Dr Wojciech Węgrzyński is a professor at Poland's Building Research Institute (ITB), specialising in fire safety engineering, CFD modelling, smoke control and wind-fire interaction. He is Deputy Head of the Fire Research Department and heads the Smoke Control, Fire Detection and Automation Department. He has contributed to over 300 fire safety and modelling projects and authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. His awards include the NFPA Harry C. Bigglestone Award, SFPE 5 Under 35 Award, 2025 SFPE Lund Award for Professional Recognition, 2025 SFPE Europe Fire Protection Engineering Award, Stefan Bryła Medal and PASCAL Award. He is President of SFPE Europe and chairs its Polish Chapter. He previously represented Europe and Africa on the IAFSS Members Advisory Council. He also creates and hosts the internationally recognised Fire Science Show podcast, with over 250 episodes exploring fire science.