SFPE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO VANCOUVER

SPEAKER LISTING

General Session Speakers

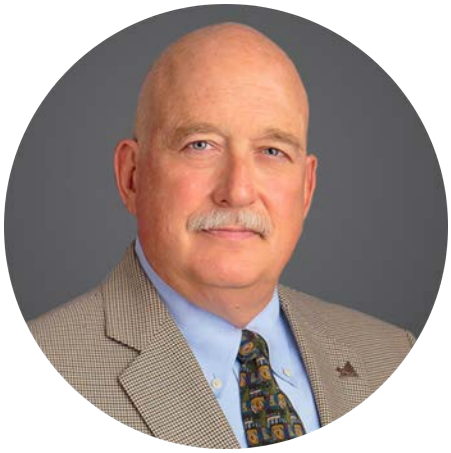
Chief Karen Fry, Fire Chief, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services

Chief Karen Fry has served as the Fire Chief and General Manager of Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) since January 2021, leading a team of over 900 firefighters and administrative staff across 20 fire halls. She also oversees Canada Task Force 1, the country's heavy urban search and rescue team, and is a key member of the City of Vancouver's Leadership Team.

With a fire service career spanning over two decades, Chief Fry began as a dispatcher in Nanaimo in 1999 before taking on leadership roles, including Deputy Fire Chief in Surrey (2006–2016) and Fire Chief in Nanaimo (2017–2020), where she also served as Director of Public Safety. She has been instrumental in addressing fire safety challenges within urban encampments and advocating for vulnerable populations.

A champion for firefighter wellness, equity, and inclusion, Chief Fry fosters strong labour relations and drives progressive initiatives. Under her leadership, VFRS became the first department in North America to adopt PFAS-free turnout gear, deploy an electric fire engine, and establish a net-zero fire hall. Recognized as #5 on Vancouver Magazine's 2023 Power 50 list, she is also the 1st Vice-President of the BC Fire Chiefs Association and an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Chief Fry holds a Doctorate of Laws (honoris) from the Justice Institute of British Columbia and a degree from Simon Fraser University. Outside of her professional commitments, she is a dedicated mother and grandmother who enjoys hiking and gardening.



Bruce Campbell, Vice President - DOE Market Leader - FSFPE

Bruce Campbell has over 48-years of experience in Fire Protection Engineering. His experience has centered on Heavy Industrial, and the Department of Energy Nuclear Programs. He was awarded Fellow in the SFPE in 2007, the DOE Walter Maybee award in 2010, and the NFPA Special Achievement Award in 2015. He is Chair of NFPA 241, Past Chair and Principal Member of NFPA 80/105, and an Alternate on NFPA 3, 4, 25, 1082, and 2800. He has been involved with supporting the DOE fire protection programs since 1985, and has participated in a number of efforts, reviews, special projects, and investigations. Bruce has initiated a number of unique approaches to fire protection challenges throughout the DOE utilizing Performance Based Designs and specialized fire testing.

Kristel Derkowski, MEDes

Kristel Derkowski is the Manager of Research & Development at Taylor Architecture Group (TAG). TAG was founded over forty years ago in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to provide contextual design solutions for Canada's remote, northern, and Indigenous communities. Kristel's role has been to investigate and pursue solutions to issues impacting housing, education/training, and the construction industry in northern regions. In recent years, this has included the development of the Fort Good Hope Construction Centre, where local people in a remote community will receive training and employment in the construction of new homes for their region. Other projects have included master planning for a polytechnic university with a presence across 22 northern communities, and the development of a hybrid homeownership model to be implemented at the local level by Indigenous governments. Most recently, Kristel is leading a multi-year study on the regulatory context around housing design and construction: specifically, whether alternative housing solutions might be more appropriate for northern & remote communities than the acceptable solutions put forward by national codes. Alongside her work at TAG, Kristel is currently pursuing a PhD in Environmental Design at the University of Calgary.

Chris Jelenewicz, SFPE Chief Executive Officer, PE, FSFPE

With a BS in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland, Chris is currently the Chief Executive Officer of SFPE. He has been an FPE for the Library of Congress, University of Maryland, and Tenera L.P. Chris also has 20 years as a volunteer firefighter and seven years as Fire Chief for the Chillum-Adelphi Volunteer Fire Department in Langley Park, MD. From 2005-2016, Chris had a hand in 26 publications, many more following.

Amanda Kimball, 2025 SFPE President, PE, FSFPE

Amanda Kimball was interested in fire protection engineering during her junior year at Worcester Polytechnic Institute where she was an undergraduate in Civil Engineering, so she entered the five-year BS/MS program. Amanda graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering in 2003 and a MS in Fire Protection Engineering in 2004. Upon graduation, she started work for Arup as a Fire Specialist in the Boston office. She was responsible for fire engineering duties for fire protection projects in a variety of occupancies. In 2008, she was promoted to Senior Fire Engineer at Arup and became responsible for leading engineering duties and project management for a variety of fire protection projects. Her background experience includes fire protection engineering consulting with experience in building code life safety analyses, design of fire protection systems, fire and egress modeling of buildings and subway stations, and risk analysis. While at Arup, she aided with the development and validation of a new egress simulation tool.

In 2011, Kimball joined the Fire Protection Research Foundation (NFPA's research affiliate) as a Research Project Manager, was promoted to Senior Project Manager, and now serves as Research Director. She is responsible for managing research activities, which include research planning, procuring research funding, and outreach. She manages projects and activities relating to the topics of fire alarm/detection, sprinkler, and other suppression, building life safety, and public education and human behavior. In addition, she manages the activities of the Foundation's Property Insurance Research Group (PIRG). The PIRG is a group of property insurers that identify research needs relevant to the insurance industry and provide financial support

for research at the Foundation. Kimball also oversees the activities of the Foundation's Research Advisory Council (RAC), which provides oversight of the research activities of the Foundation to ensure that they adhere to the Foundation policies.

Morten Moelgaard Schmidt, Fire safety consultant and Technical lead, 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 has been involved in the renovation and reconstruction of the Danish Stock Exchange after the fire in 2024 and is assisting with both fire safety design at the construction site and the finished building.

Elizabeth (Beth) Weckman, PhD, PEng

Beth Weckman is a Professor in Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Waterloo and co-leads their Fire Research Group and Fire Safety Graduate program. For over 30 years, Beth has been conducting interdisciplinary work in the broad field of fire safety: developing advanced diagnostics to probe fires, as well as conducting studies into topics ranging from wildfires to impacts of fires on humans, fire dynamics, fire performance of materials and development of fire risk parameters and frameworks. She serves co-leader of Theme 2: Fire Safety in the NextGen Wood Alliance Program, with research into compartment fire behaviour and evidence based design for timber structures. Beth is a member of ASTM E05 and ISO TC92 Fire Standards Committees, along with the FSRI Advisory, NFPA Research and IAAI Boards. She also contributes through fire service college program advisory committees, International Association for Fire Safety Science executive and chaired the SFPE Curriculum and Accreditation Committee and is member Academic Leadership Committee. Throughout her endeavours, Beth seeks to couple the latest fire research with educational initiatives to enrich learning and promote broad, multidisciplinary technology transfer amongst fire safety stakeholders at all levels.

Abstract Session Speakers

Arwa Abougharib, MSc

I'm a mechanical engineer and a PhD student at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Forestry, Department of Wood Science. My research focuses on modelling the fire performance of mass timber structures. I am passionate about fire safety and leveraging data to protect people, property, and the environment.

Gregory Baxter, Senior Researcher

Greg has worked with FPInnovations since 2001 where he has focused on fuels research, firefighter safety and now on community protection research. Over the last three years he has developed a data collection framework for the purpose of collecting fuels and structure data prior to a wildfire arriving in and around structures. The objective is data collection that would be used to enhance educational tools that provide homeowner structure protection practices and identify appropriate construction methods/materials that will reduce the impact of wildfire in the WUI. Greg has completed a number of case studies including the McDougall Creek report, the Enterprise NT 2023 and is continuing this work with the new WCIR project. To supplement this, experimental crown fire in the NWT will is used on structures built to various standards. He is also involved in case studies on the effectiveness of fuel treatments in and around communities that have been impacted by wildfire.

Hubert Biteau PhD, PE

Dr. Hubert Biteau is a fire protection engineer with expertise in fire safety and egress strategies for various sectors, including energy storage, high-rise construction, commercial/industrial facilities, and transportation. He specializes in the design, testing, and analysis of life safety systems, including fire sprinkler systems, detection systems, smoke control, and explosion control systems.

He provides fire risk assessments, hazard mitigation for energy storage systems, code compliance consulting, and fire performance evaluations of ESS and other battery systems.

Adam Bittern, PhD, CEng, MEng, MiFireE, MSFPE

Adam founded the Astute Fire brand whilst studying for his PhD in 2010 has applied creative fire-engineered solutions to numerous projects on four different continents over the past 20 years. Earlier in his career, working for the fire service, Adam undertook forensic analysis of real building fires, assessing the effectiveness of fire safety systems, and authoring reports which were used to shape fire safety regulations. Adam was also involved in the writing of tall building procedures for firefighting for the New Zealand Fire Service.

He is the author of numerous refereed papers on fire engineering in tall buildings, highlighting critical elements of a fire safety strategy to identify the current state-of-the-art of fire safety design in tall buildings. and the current state-of-the-art of fire safety design. He has provided Section 38 expert advice on several cases in UK, as well as supporting roles on multiple expert witness cases.

Haavard Boehmer, PE

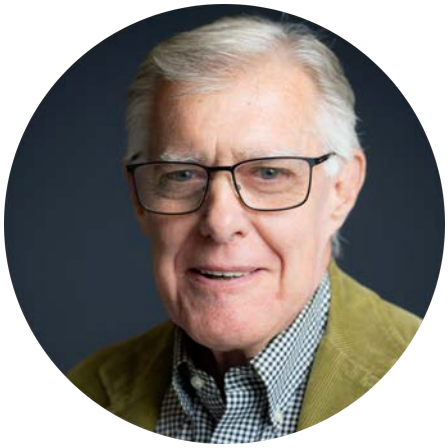
Haavard is a licensed fire protection engineer at Summit Fire Consulting, recent acquirer of Performance Based Fire Protection Engineering (PBFPE).He has over 14 years of experience with complex performance-based fire protection design, forensic analysis, and fire research. His work focuses on application of computer modeling of fire and pedestrian movement to analyze problems such as smoke extraction, structural fire exposure, evacuation, battery gas release, and occupant tenability. He was lead researcher for the 2020 NFPA Research Foundation report on Fire Hazards of Modern Vehicles.

Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

Jason serves as the Fire Chief for the growing community of West Kelowna and the Westbank First Nation located in the interior of British Columbia, Canada. Jason led hundreds of firefighters through the devastating McDougall Creek Wildfire in the summer of 2023, evacuating over 25,000 residents and saving thousands of homes from destruction. Jason has been involved in emergency services for the past 30 years. Jason holds a Bachelor degree in Technology with a specialization in Emergency Management. He has been awarded the British Columbia Provincial Fire Services Long Service Medal, the Canadian Fire Services Exemplary Services Medal and the King Charles III Coronation Medal for his service to Canada. In 2022, Jason was named West Kelowna Citizen of the Year. Jason is passionate about protecting communities from Wildfire and serves on the board of the Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia and FireSmart BC.

Virginia Charter Titles: Associate Professor & Program Coordinator Designations: PhD, PE, FSFPE

Dr. Virginia Charter is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology at Oklahoma State University. She obtained her BS in FPSET from OSU, her MS in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and her PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies - Higher Education. Prior to returning to OSU, she practiced as a consulting and design engineer for nine years in Las Vegas, Nevada. She has worked on many of the infamous Strip properties planning for and evaluation of fire protection, life safety, and risk control systems. Her research is focused on areas that impact fire protection system effectiveness, water supplies, building and fire codes and standards, and engineering education. She is a licensed professional engineer in Nevada, California, and Oklahoma. She serves as an alternate member of several standard committees, including NFPA 13, NFPA 20, and NFPA 101. She currently sits on the UL Fire Council, is an SFPE Foundation Governor, and is on the Higher Education sub-committee to the SFPE Professional Qualifications Committee. She is a Fellow member in SFPE.



John Cholin, PE, FSFPE, MEE Principal

Mr. John M. Cholin, PE, is President of J. M. Cholin Consultants, Inc., a fire protection consulting and engineering firm. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer by the State of Connecticut in the discipline of Fire Protection Engineering. He is a member of: NFPA, a Fellow of the SFPE, and a member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Initiating Devices for the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Systems Code, NFPA Technical Committee on Handling and Conveying of Dusts, Vapors and Gases, NFPA Technical Committee on Wood, Paper and Cellulosic Materials, NFPA Technical Committee on Fundamentals of Combustible Dusts, and NFPA Technical Correlating Committee on Combustible Dusts.

Evan Ford

Evan has worked in the fire industry for over 7 years as a Fire Protection Engineer and Code Consultant. Although he is active in all aspects of Fire Engineering and building code consulting, Evan's primary technical focus is performance-based design with extensive experience in analytical tools for fire, egress, thermal radiation, and pressurization. Evan enjoys a career that has allowed him to lead and develop fire strategies and solutions for complex and iconic structures and projects, including stadia, high-rise residential, educational, commercial, health care, transit, and mixed-use occupancies.

Lauren Gagnon, PhD

Lauren graduated from UC Berkeley in 2021 with her PhD in Mechanical Engineering with a focus on Energy, Science, & Technology. She completed her post-doc at FM (previously FM Global) as part their Fire Hazards & Protection team within the Engineering & Research division. There, she focused exclusively on lithium-ion battery fire testing with applications in Battery Energy Storage Systems, performing tests from the cell- to rack-level. Upon finishing her post-doc, she joined the R&D team at the Fire & Risk Alliance in 2024 where she continues her lithium-ion battery research, including now an additional focus on their associated deflagration hazards.

Benjamin Gaudet, PE

Ben Gaudet is the R&D manager with UL Solutions fire research and development based outside Chicago, IL. His main technical areas are the development of fire safety standards and test equipment, fire and explosion testing on both the small and large scales, battery thermal runaway propagation testing and fire modeling.

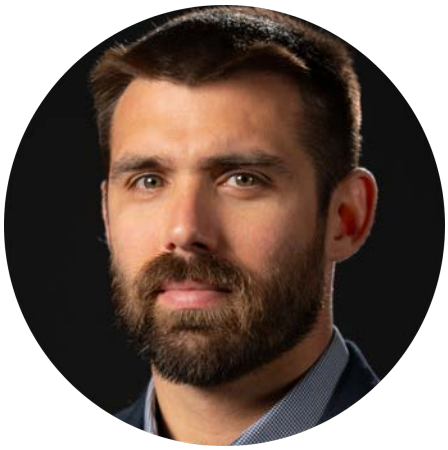
Allie Gilks, MS, PEng

Allie Gilks is a Professional Engineer in the Provinces of Ontario, Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University as well as a Master's Degree in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic University. She has more than 14 years of experience in the application of building and fire codes.

Allie's project experience includes the analysis and application of fire protection and life safety fundamentals related to a variety of projects within the context of building code consulting. Allie has worked on and led a diverse spectrum of complex and large-scale projects including (but not limited to): public transit facilities, assembly, residential, high rise, educational institutions, malls and commercial. Allie also has extensive experience in the use of computer models to conduct engineering analyses including fire dynamics, pedestrian flow, and evacuation simulations.

Yogish Gopala, Lead Research Scientist

Dr. Yogish Gopala is currently a Lead Research Scientist at FM Global. He is part of the large-scale fire testing team in the Fire and Explosions Protection Group. Dr. Gopala has been with FM Global for over 13 years working on various studies that include both critical problem-solving projects and long-term strategic research. Some of the notable projects include development of smoke vents, storage of aerosols and equivalency between different K-factor sprinklers. He serves in NFPA residential sprinkler technical committee.



Daniel Gorham

Daniel is a research engineer for the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of UL Research Institutes. His research interest include understanding the natural hazard of wildfire and its impacts on society, particularly the structure ignition process and how to make homes and communities more resilient. Daniel holds both a master's and bachelor's degree in fire protection engineering from the University of Maryland College Park. His master's work included time spent as a guest researcher at the USDA Forest Service' Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. In addition, his background as a firefighter/EMT help guide research on fire control measures, protecting firefighters, and code development to protect the public.

Dong Han AVP, Lead Research Scientist, PhD

Dong Han is a Lead Research Scientist at FM Global with a focus on fire hazards and protection covering fire hazard evaluation, large-scale fire testing, wildland fire, and fire protection system design. He has been with FM Global for 7 years and co-authored of more than 10 journal publications and conference proceedings. Dong Han holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Shanghai Jiao Tong University from Shanghai, China, and a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN, USA. He is a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), International Association for Fire Safety Science (IAFSS), and the Combustion institute (CI).

Bryant Hendrickson PE, CFEI

Bryant Hendrickson is a licensed fire protection engineer who specializes in industrial fire protection. He is experienced in performing fire and explosion safety studies in accordance with NFPA standards and local codes. Mr. Hendrickson is skilled in developing and reviewing fire protection design documents for fire water systems, fire and gas detection systems, emergency shutdown systems, explosion protection, passive thermal protection, and active mitigation systems. Mr. Hendrickson also serves on the ISA 84 working group for fire and gas detection, and is the ISO Coordinator for BLUE's ISO 9001 Quality Management System.

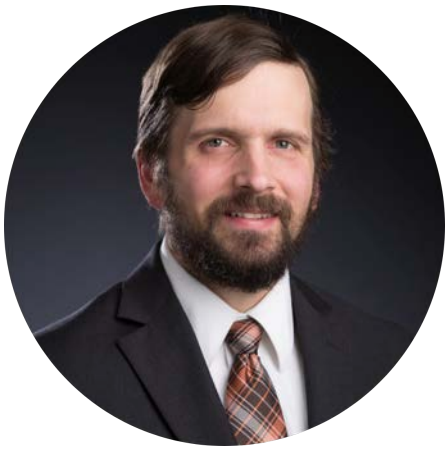
Jonathan Hodges, PhD, PMSFPE

Dr. Hodges brings a unique blend of academic research, industry experience, and technical expertise to his role as the Director of Modeling at Jensen Hughes. He has led numerous research projects focused on improving fire modeling techniques, experimental measurement methods, and fire risk assessment. He supports the industry in advancing fire safety standards and guidelines in working groups with SFPE and NFPA. He is also a member of the board of governors for the SFPE Foundation, serving on the technical committee.

Ryan Honary

Ryan Honary is a multi-award-winning, 17-yr old inventor and entrepreneur who has been actively putting his STEM-fueled passion for people, animals and the environment into action for years. Motivated by devastating wildfires in California, he created a patent-pending AI-Driven Sensor Network for the early detection and growth prediction of wildfires. After winning numerous science awards, his project got the attention of Orange County Fire Authority who in February 2025 started deploying his product in high ignition risk areas in Orange County and was featured across national media. He received funding from Irvine Ranch Conservancy and formed a startup SensoRyAI in 2022. The platform can be used as a low-cost Early Warning System for various environmental hazards. In May 2025 at the International Science & Engineering Fair, the biggest global STEM competition for high schoolers, Ryan won various awards including 2nd place for the Grand Award in the Embedded Systems Category. Also in April 2024, his project became a Top-Ten finalist at The Earth Prize out of thousands of submissions from over 100 countries.

Ryan lives in Newport Beach, California. He is a competitive tennis player and captain of his high school varsity tennis team. In his free time, he volunteers to teach tennis to kids on the Autism Spectrum. He also likes to surf, snowboard and play the electric guitar.



Bryan Hoskins, PE, PhD

Dr. Bryan Hoskins is a Professor at Oklahoma State University in the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology program. He earned his BS and MS in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland and a PhD from Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland.

In addition to teaching classes for undergraduate and graduate students, he has taught many professional development classes to help bridge the gap between academia and industry. He has also led an annual week-long summer camp that introduces high school students to fire protection.

Professor Hoskins is an active member of the SFPE and NFPA. He serves as the chair of the working group that developed and maintains the SFPE Research Roadmap, serves on the committees for multiple SFPE guides and other committees, is an instructor for the SFPE PE Exam preparation course and is on eight technical committees for codes and standards.

Morgan Hurley, PE, FSFPE

Morgan is a professional engineer with 35 years of experience. Morgan has extensive experience in fire modeling and egress analysis, fire detection and suppression systems design, performance-based fire safety design, risk analyses, and building code and life safety consultation. He has taught graduate courses as adjunct faculty at University of Maryland, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and California Polytechnic State University. Licensed in multiple states, Morgan thrives on complicated fire protection/life safety challenges and looks forward to mentoring the next generation of fire protection engineers.

Rachel Kirk, PE

Rachel Kirk, P.E. is a licensed fire protection engineer at Summit Fire Consulting, recent acquirer of Performance Based Fire Protection Engineering (PBFPE). She is currently completing her Master's in Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Stanislav Kostka, Lead Research Scientist

Stanislav Kostka is currently a Lead Research Scientist at FM in Norwood, MA. He joined the company in 2017 as a member of the water suppression team within the Fire Hazards and Protection Research Group. In this role, Stanislav has led several tests to develop improved fire protection approaches and requirements in support of FM Global's Chief Engineer's Group, Innovation Team and FM Approvals.

Hao Liang, PhD

Dr. Hao Liang is a Co-Founder of Blueprint AI Technologies Inc. and a leading expert in artificial intelligence. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Intelligent Energy Systems and serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta. Dr. Liang's research focuses on applying advanced AI technologies, including large language models (LLMs), deep neural networks, and machine learning, to solve complex challenges across engineering sectors.

Pierce Lushinsky, PE

Pierce Lushinsky, P.E. is a licensed fire protection engineer at Summit Fire Consulting, recent acquirer of Performance Based Fire Protection Engineering (PBFPE), where he was the Director of Engineering. Pierce leads a team of licensed engineers in developing innovative fire safety solutions through performance-based design. With over ten years of experience, Pierce specializes in smoke control modeling and commissioning, hazardous materials classification, and computational egress and fire modeling. He is a licensed Fire Protection Engineer in multiple states and a Professional Member of SFPE.

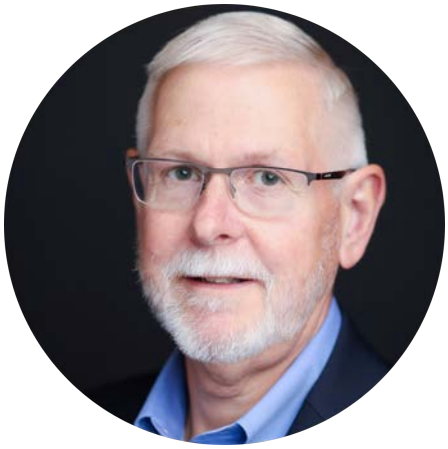
Pierce has been at the forefront of applying advanced modeling techniques such as Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS) and Pathfinder to evaluate fire protection strategies in high-risk environments. His recent work focuses on the emerging fire hazards posed by battery electric bus (BEB) fleets, where traditional code-based systems may fall short or lack adequate evidence for recommendations. Today, Pierce presents a case study using performance-based methods to assess fire safety in a large municipal BEB garage, including various ignition sources, structural exposures, and mitigation strategies like enhanced sprinkler systems and early detection technologies.

Victoria Lutz

Victoria Lutz is a Senior Research Project Manager at the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF), the research affiliate of NFPA, where she plans, manages, and facilitates research in support of the NFPA mission. Her research focuses on the hazards and protection strategies for emerging issues and technologies, the reliability and effectiveness of fire protection systems, and data collection and analytics in support of informed decision making. Victoria holds a MSc and BSc in Fire Protection Engineering, is a member of SFPE and serves as deputy editor for the SFPE Handbook for Fire Protection Engineering.

James McGonigal James - PhD, CEng, MCABE, MIFireE, MRICS

James is an experienced practicing-chartered engineer specialising in fire engineering and building regulations. In his previous role, James was the Scottish Government's national regulatory for fire safety of new buildings at the Building Standards Division. James has an in depth understanding of fire safety legislation and guidance and of the building regulatory system. He has also provided technical leadership and advice on the regulations and guidance to Scottish Ministers, local authority verifiers and the design community, as well as working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the development of national guidance. In addition, he represented the Scottish Government on various British Standard technical committees and was a board member of the RICS (Scotland Building Control Professional Group). James is a past President of the Scottish branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers.



Brian Meacham, PhD, PE, CEng, EUR ING, FIFireE, FSFPE

Brian is Director of Risk & Regulatory Consulting at Crux Consulting, where he develops risk-informed performance-based solutions to complex building, infrastructure and fire safety management challenges, provides peer-review services, and conducts building and fire regulatory system studies. Brian is also an Adjunct Professor at Lund University, where he undertakes research in sustainable and fire resilient built environments, fire safety technologies, and sociotechnical systems approaches for fire. Brian is a Member of the Advisory Board for the UL Fire Safety Research Institute, a Trustee and the Immediate Past Chair of the International Association for Fire Safety Science, Chair of the ICC Performance Code Development Committee, Past Chair of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Risk Assessment Methods, Past President of the SFPE, Past Chair of the US TAG to ISO TC92 TC4, and Past Chair of the IRCC. Brian is a licensed Professional Engineer in Connecticut and Massachusetts, a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the IFE, a registered European Engineer, a Fellow of the SFPE, a Fulbright Global Scholar, and a Fulbright Specialist.

Courtney Myers, PE

Courtney is a Lead Fire Protection Engineer at Jensen Hughes. She graduated from the University of Maryland in 2017 with a B.S. in fire protection engineering. She serves as a consultant on a variety of projects involving complex building code consulting, sprinkler design, fire alarm design, egress modeling, and smoke modeling. Courtney is a member of SFPE, NFPA, and serves on the Arlington County Local Board of Building Code Appeals.

Nicholas Ozog, PE (IL, CA), PMSFPE, MS

He joined WJE in 2016 and is currently an associate principal in the WJE fire protection group. He possesses experience in building and fire code analysis, existing buildings, property conditions assessments, performance-based design, fire protection system design, fire modeling, risk assessment, and loss control investigations. He has worked extensively on performance-based design and code analyses for a wide range of clients, projects, and occupancies nationwide, including some of the largest hotel chains and healthcare networks in the US. Mr. Ozog has traveled globally and reviewed existing buildings with combustible facade materials to provide reviews and associated risk assessments. He is current past president of his local SFPE chapter, is part of SFPE's Existing Building Task Group, sits on several NFPA technical committees including NFPA 1, and NFPA 30, and is an interested party with ICC for the International Existing Building Code.

Donna Settle, PE, PMSFPE

Donna Settle is a commercial property risk engineering specialist with expertise in storage and logistics, manufacturing, and large healthcare, education, and research campuses. She provides risk engineering services to global clients with complex occupancies, helping to control and minimize total risk costs. Donna acts as a liaison between clients and property insurance carrier engineers to align priorities and stabilize insurance programs.

Donna started her career as a facilities engineer in 1993 and joined Gallagher in 2020. Along the way, she worked with Rockwell Space Operations, FM Global, Zurich, and Marsh,

gaining experience in property loss prevention, risk analysis, and loss investigation. Her diverse roles enable her to translate technical recommendations into actionable solutions.

Donna holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Lamar University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas. She is a member of NFPA, NSPE, and SFPE.

Jenny Sideri, PhD, PE

Dr. Jenny Sideri is Senior Associate in Thornton Tomasetti's Forensics practice, specializing in forensic investigations including due to fire, fire performance-based design, litigation support, post-loss support, structural design of repairs, damage assessment and rehabilitation of existing structures, advanced analytics, and advanced finite element analysis. Jenny received her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from Columbia University and her B.E./Integrated M.Sc. from the National Technical University of Athens. Jenny is a frequent speaker at industry events and has published in a variety of journals and international conferences. She has also been a guest lecturer in various universities, teaching both forensic engineering and structural fire engineering. She serves on the ASCE/SEI Technical Committee for Performance-Based Design and leads the committee's Fire Task Group. Jenny co-leads the Performance-Based Fire Engineering Community of Practice at Thornton Tomasetti, and is a co-coordinator of the Women@TT, New York Chapter.

Jeremy Souza, PE, CFPS, PMSFPE

Jeremy Souza, P.E., CFPS, PMSFPE is a Senior Project Manager and fire protection engineer at Code Red Consultants in Massachusetts. Licensed in seven states. Mr. Souza specializes in fire protection system design with an emphasis on water based systems, pumps, and protection of high-hazard and complex, non-traditional fire protection problems. He has been in the fire service for over 30 years, leaving the career fire service as a Deputy Chief with 12 years in Fire Prevention. His fire service background focused on both structural and flammable liquid firefighting. He also serves as a principal member of three NFPA Technical Committees: NFPA 14 (Standpipes), NFPA 385 (Transportation of Flammable Liquids), and NFPA 407 (Aircraft Fuel Servicing). Mr. Souza is a Professional Member of the SPFE and has presented on foam and ignitable liquid firefighting for over 20 years.

David Stacy, Engineering Manager

David Stacy, P.E. is the Engineering Manager at Summit Fire Consulting, where he leads complex fire protection engineering projects with a focus on innovative, performance-based solutions. Prior to joining Summit, David was the founder of Performance Based Fire Protection Engineering (PBFPE), where he specialized in performance-based design approaches that pushed the boundaries of code-prescriptive standards to enhance life safety, fire protection, and building efficiency.

Christine Theisen PE, MBA, PMSFPE

Christine (Christy) Theisen, PE, MBA, PMSFPE, is the President and Principal Engineer of Goodhead Consulting Engineers. Located in Las Vegas, NV, Christy has over 20 years of experience in the fire protection industry. After starting her career in the sprinkler design industry, Christy moved to the consulting field, where she was able to help guide projects at earlier stages. Prior to joining Goodhead Consulting Engineers, Christy was with Jensen Hughes for 15+ years, where she held multiple positions, including Director of the Las Vegas operations and Market Leader.

Today, Christy is responsible for the day-to-day operations of her organization, with projects and clients located across the United States. With Goodhead Consulting Engineers, she helps architects, developers, owners, and general contractors achieve the design vision of their project by implementing innovative design solutions. Christy holds her firm to the highest integrity and excellence in everything they deliver.

Christy is a registered professional engineer in multiple states. She has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Arizona State University, an M.S. in Fire Protection Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic University, and an MBA from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Christy has been published in NFPA Journal and Doors and Hardware Advancing Life Safety and Security Solutions. She was also a recipient of Consulting-Specifying Engineer, 40 under 40.

Sandra Vaiciulyte, PhD

Sandra Vaiciulyte is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Geophysics (UNAM) and an interdisciplinary consultant, specializing in human behavior in disasters, early warning systems, and fire safety in informal and under-resourced settings. Her work focuses on integrating behavioral and social science insights into engineering practices, contributing to performance-based and human-centered solutions for disaster risk reduction, seismic safety, and fire risk assessment. Sandra collaborates with international research teams and NGOs on projects that bridge technical and social dimensions of risk, with an emphasis on equitable safety, participatory methodologies, and convergence research approaches.

Joseph Willi

Joseph is a research engineer with the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of UL Research Institutes. Since joining the team in 2017, he has been a main contributor to research projects regarding live-fire training, fire investigation, fire modeling, and fires in the WUI. His current research is focused on better understanding mechanisms of structure-to-structure fire spread during WUI fire incidents. Prior to FSRI, Joe worked as a fire protection engineer in the Fire Research Division at NIST, where his work covered topics related to fire model validation, firefighter PPE performance testing, and firefighting tactics. Joseph holds a B.S. in General Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an M.S. in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Claire Yuan, MASc, PEng, CP, PE

Building on a master's degree in fire science and involvement in significant mass timber research projects, Claire's experience ranges from Certified Professional work providing a broad understanding of issues in Division B Part 3 of the National Building Code to alternative solutions based on mass timber fire testing, reliability research, fire performance-based analysis, and sprinkler performance studies. Claire's projects involve a wide range of buildings including Industrial, Commercial, Academic, Office and Residential of all sizes from greater than 40 storeys to houses. With her knowledge and passion in fire science, Claire is in active collaboration with the federal and provincial governments for several ongoing research and development programs specific to forefront engineering of mass timber and

performance-based design. She is also active in pushing mass timber research and performance-based framework engaging presentations nationally and internationally including SFPE, JAS/BEC, guest lectures at UNBC and UofA.

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