



CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
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DELEGATES PROSPECTUS

VERSION 5.0

TE PAE, CHRISTCHURCH

TUESDAY 8TH - THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2026



THE FORUM OF FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

The Partners.



FPANZ

The Fire Protection Association NZ is the primary organisation which represents the fire protection industry in New Zealand.

The Association liaises closely with relevant government departments and ministries and, has strong links with other building related associations. The Association has been operating now for 50 years, and has grown significantly by representing more and more companies and organisations that work in the fire protection industry.

Our membership base includes businesses that are involved in fire alarm manufacturing, fire alarm services, fire protection sprinkler industry, evacuation consultants, fire equipment distributors, insurance companies, fire engineers, Fire and Emergency New Zealand and Territorial Authorities.



IFE

The Institution of Fire Engineers New Zealand Branch is part of an international learned body which was founded in 1918 and incorporated in New Zealand in 1924 with the following main objectives:

- To promote, encourage and improve the science and practice of fire engineering, fire prevention and fire extinction, and all operations and expedients connected therewith.
- To give an impulse to ideas likely to be useful in connection with, or in relation to such science and practice to the members of the Institution and community at large.

Membership of the IFE is drawn from a large cross section of the community, all with a common interest in fire engineering. Examples of organisations that members belong are Fire and Emergency NZ, Airport Rescue Fire Service, Rural Fire Service, the Insurance Industry, the Building Industry, the Fire Protection Industry, Fire Engineering Consultants and organisations tasked with emergency incident management.



SFPE

The New Zealand Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers is the primary organisation representing the fire engineering professionals of New Zealand.

SFPE NZ is a technical group of Engineering NZ for matters of Fire Engineering.

The purpose of the SFPE is to advance the science and practice of fire protection engineering and its allied fields, to maintain a high ethical standard among its members, to develop fire protection engineering guidelines and standards and to foster fire protection engineering education.

In accomplishing this purpose, SFPE NZ has engaged in activities that are educational, scientific, charitable or promote the practice of fire protection engineering since 1994.

SFPE NZ members include representatives of all sectors of the fire protection industry with an interest in the development, application and promotion of scientific and engineering methods to reduce the risks of unwanted fires.



Welcome.

FireNZ is the annual forum for Fire Protection and Fire Engineering professionals.

**FireNZ 2026 will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand
8th – 10th September 2026.**

The conference is once again presented by the Fire Protection Association of New Zealand, the Society of Fire Protection Engineers NZ Chapter, and the Institution of Fire Engineers New Zealand Branch.

Our annual FireNZ national conference has established a reputation as the premier fire industry event for keeping abreast of advancements in all aspects of fire safety in New Zealand.

FireNZ provides a comprehensive national forum for fire industry professionals. It draws delegates from countries throughout the Pacific and keynote speakers from around the world.

The conference programme is designed to provide insight and learning, to extend current thoughts on the various presentation topics, and to provide robust debate around key industry issues. FireNZ delegates are industry professionals with a strong interest in the latest developments across fire protection and related products and services.

The conference will provide information for, amongst others:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ■ Fire Protection Contractors | ■ Fire Survey Personnel |
| ■ Fire Consultants | ■ Regulatory Authorities |
| ■ Fire Engineers | ■ Territorial Authorities |
| ■ Architects | ■ Fire Risk-Management Personnel |
| ■ Building Surveyors | ■ Fire and Emergency New Zealand Operational and Volunteer Personnel |
| ■ Property Developers | ■ Property and Facilities Managers |
| ■ Distributors and Installers | ■ System Designers HVAC/ Fire |
| ■ Insurance Professionals | |
| ■ Fire Equipment Manufacturers | |

Venue: Te Pae Conference Centre, Christchurch



IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN FIRE SAFETY, YOU SHOULD ATTEND.

THE FORUM OF FIRE PROTECTION, FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

The Sponsors.



We wish to acknowledge and thank all of the Sponsors for this year's conference and exhibition.



BOSS Passive Fire

– Gold Sponsor

At BOSS Fire, we specialise in cutting edge passive fire protection systems that simplify compliance and raise safety standards across residential and commercial construction.

Fire safety is critical, but often complex. We remove that complexity with intuitive, high-performance products that reduce on-site risk, lower labour costs, and ensure code compliance. Designed by experts with trade and engineering backgrounds with decades of experience 'on the tools', we understand the entire build process; from specification to final sign-off.

In an industry weighed down by legacy products and rigid systems, we innovate to make passive fire protection easier, faster, and more reliable. Our purpose: Make it easier to build cost-effective, safer places to live.



Winstone Wallboards (GIB)

– Gold Sponsor

Passive fire safety isn't just about a product; it's about system performance. We love our GIB® products, but they alone don't deliver performance. Every component of a building assembly works in concert to produce the outcome that protects lives and meets compliance requirements. That is the value we're committed to delivering for our customers, and that is what we design, test, and stand behind. Our technical support and regularly updated technical literature means the latest building system solutions are always in your hands. Making your job easier, without ever compromising safety of the public, is what drives everything we do. Let's keep building safer together.





Pertronic

– Coffee Cart Sponsor

Pertronic Automatic Fire Alarm Systems – New Zealand made & New Zealand supported

Pertronic Industries Ltd, based in Lower Hutt, Wellington, designs, manufacturers, and markets fire alarm systems and exports to Australia and the USA.

Pertronic sells its fire detection equipment to accredited fire system installers and provides expert assistance through its technical services teams.

It invests over 10% of its total turnover in research and development, and its 35+ teams' skills range across software and hardware development.

The company's flagship F220 analogue addressable fire panel is widely recognised as being Australasia's favourite because of its simplicity of setup and programming, and easy configuration and firmware upgrades.





BRANZ

– Silver Sponsor

BRANZ delivers practical, independent building research and testing for a better built environment in Aotearoa New Zealand. We turn building science into practical tools, testing and guidance the sector can trust. This work supports the sector to create more affordable, resilient, sustainable and higher-quality buildings for all New Zealanders.



Bondor

– Silver Sponsor

Bondor NZ is an established manufacturer and installer of fire rated and non-combustible insulated panel systems.

We specialise in the construction of commercial chillers, cool stores, freezers and all buildings that require a temperature-controlled environment - above or below zero degrees.

We are an industry leader in the construction and fit out of hygiene sensitive environments, clean rooms, laboratories and food processing facilities.



Zone Architectural Products

– Silver Sponsor

Zone Architectural Products unite a selection of global and local brands for the NZ Construction market. Over the last 20 years we have successfully delivered on a number of high-profile projects across Australasia. Our specialist range includes seismic fire barriers, fire rated paint systems for internal wall linings and external timber cladding, structural steel intumescent and SFRM systems. With a long history in specialist coating systems, Zone's expert advice has been sought after in the industry for decades and we are proud to be a part of the FPANZ community. Zone strives to bring the latest global technologies to NZ with a focus on sustainable solutions including our FireZone Vanguard, a 100% natural non-toxic fire retardant for timber substrates suitable for external use, which is 100% biodegradable at end of life with no adverse environmental impact.

In conjunction with Proline Protective Coatings NZ we are now also representing the Steelmaster range of intumescent systems from Jotun for structural steel complete with approved Jotun primers and topcoats.





Abodo Wood Ltd.

– Bronze Sponsor

At Abodo, we're transforming timber design with sustainable, innovative alternatives that supersede old growth.

We exist to create feature timbers that stand for something, a movement toward better forestry practices and sustainable innovation.

To protect ancient, irreplaceable forests, we use purpose-grown, rapidly renewable timber from the best forestry sources.

Our New Growth™ feature timbers include cladding, screening, joinery, decking and panelling.



Hallmark Group

– Bronze Sponsor

Hallmark Group is a leading New Zealand manufacturer of performance doorsets, trusted on some of the country's most significant commercial, healthcare, education, accommodation and residential projects. Working alongside architects, contractors and developers, Hallmark delivers complete door solutions backed by technical expertise, project management support and proven performance. Hallmark is a specialist in certified fire and smoke doorsets, offering solutions rated up to 240 minutes and manufactured to meet NZBC and NZS 4520 requirements. Through its *Every Door. One Partner* approach, Hallmark provides a single, accountable source for fire rated, and performance doorsets, combining compliance, durability and reliability to deliver high-performance solutions for demanding environments across New Zealand



**WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK ALL OF THE SPONSORS
FOR THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**

Conference Programme Format

DAY ONE

TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am – 12.00pm
Offsite Tours

12.00pm – 1.30pm
**FireNZ 2026 Launch/
Tradeshow Opening**

12.00pm – 6.30pm
Tradeshow Hall Open

1.30pm – 5.00pm
**FireNZ
Plenary Sessions**

5.30pm – 6.30pm
Welcome Reception

DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

7.00am – 7.00pm
Tradeshow Hall Open

8.30am – 5.30pm
**FireNZ
Plenary Sessions**

9.00am – 5.30pm
**Technical/
Product Sessions**

5.30pm – 10.30pm
**Drinks Reception
& Awards Dinner**

DAY THREE

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am – 1.30pm
Tradeshow Hall Open

9.00am – 3.00pm
**FireNZ
Plenary Sessions**

9.00am – 3.00pm
**Technical/
Product Sessions**

3.00pm
Conference Close

**Times subject to change*



FIRENZ 2026 EXHIBITORS

Abodo Wood	
Bronze Sponsor	23
Bondor NZ Ltd	
Silver Sponsor	26
Boss Passive Fire	
Gold Sponsor	10/11
BRANZ	
Silver Sponsor	15
GIB Winstone Wallboards	
Gold Sponsor	44/53
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Jensen Hughes	27
Johnson Controls	19/20
Kingspan	54
Konnnect Fastening Systems	14

Milwaukee Tools	39
Mt Hutt Digital	18
NZ Safety Blackwoods	1
Orbital Fire	37
Pumpset Technology	7
PPG Industries NZ Ltd	21
Promax Engineered Plastics Ltd	13
Reliant Solutions	24
Sika NZ Ltd	28
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Upon registration you will receive an invitation to download our conference app where details of the presentations will be shared. Any amendments to this program will be available on the conference app.

PROGRAMME: DAY ONE

Tuesday 8th September

Time	Stream 1	Product Showcase	Site Visit OFFSITE
6.00am	EHS/Exhibitor Pack In		
8.30am			
9.00am			
9.30am			
9.45am			
10.00am			
10.15am			
10.30am			
11.00am			
11.15am			
12.00 – 1.15pm	Registration & Trade Show opens / Lunch		
1.15pm	Opening by Event MC Opening address by FPA, IFE, SFPE Presidents		
1.30pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Lt. Adam Lynch <i>Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: Evolving Tactics and Trends</i>		
2.10pm	SPEAKER: George Hare <i>Is full encapsulation of mass timber sufficient?</i>		
2.35pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Emma Sutcliffe <i>Extinguished or Escalating? Risks of Delayed and Secondary Thermal Runaway in EVs.</i>		
3.05 – 3.50pm	Afternoon Tea		
3.50pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Abhishek Chhabra <i>Architecting Trust: Harnessing the ISO 17000 "Toolbox" and FCIA's DIIM™ Framework for New Zealand's Passive Fire Future</i>		
4.30pm	SPEAKER: Justin McEntyre <i>BIM and Passive Fire - Lessons learned so far</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Promat - Promatect® 100X partition board, FRR -/120/120+ wall and ceiling systems	
4.50pm	SPEAKER: Dr Mayank Shrivastava <i>Fire Resistance Assessment of Steel Columns Embedded in Two-Way Fire Rated Wall Systems</i>		
5.05pm	SPEAKER: Xiang Zhou <i>Transferable and Robust AI Modelling for Smart Firefighting Using Graph Neural Networks</i>		
5.20pm	SPEAKER: Natasha Leniston-Bagnall <i>Strength of Woodcrete under Fire Conditions</i>		
5.35pm	Conference Close / Recap		
5.35 – 6.35pm	Drinks and Canapes		
7.00 – 10.30pm	FireNZ Presidents Club <i>by invitation only</i>		

Please note that the speakers and topics are correct at the time of publication but are subject to change if required

PROGRAMME: DAY TWO

Wednesday 9th September

Time	Stream 1	Product Showcase	FPANZ Technical Sessions Bealey 3
7.00 – 8.00am	Registration & Trade Show opens		
8.25am	Opening by Event MC		Fire Protection Alterations and Repairs “Consent or Exempt” 8.15am – 9.15am MBIE – Presentation on Fire Regulatory Review 9.15am – 9.45am Passive Fire Compliance Frameworks 9.45am – 10.30am
8.30am	Panel Discussion: Rob Holland, Paul Richards, Darren Prinsloo <i>Construction Fire Safety - a discussion</i>		
9.25am	SPEAKER: Tim Mitchell <i>Emerging Wildfire Risks and Issues in NZ</i>		
9.50am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Commissioner Gavin Freeman <i>– Evaluation of EVIE – Victoria's 'Electric Vehicle for Incident and Emergency: Operational Capability, Environmental Impact, and Economic Feasibility</i>		
10.35 – 11.20am	Morning Tea		
11.20am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr Linus Lim <i>Atlassian Hybrid mass timber, concrete and steel building, Sydney.</i>		NZS 4541:2020 – How Did It Work and What’s Next? 11.20am – 11.45am Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) 11.45am – 12.20pm
12.05pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr Claire Benson <i>Systems in Sync - Fire and Fire Protection Engineering for Hazardous Substances</i>		
12.45 – 1.30pm	Lunch		
1.30pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Lt. Adam Lynch <i>Trends in Electric Vehicle Response Tactics</i>		
2.10pm	SPEAKER: Nadine Fargier <i>Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage Systems: What the Testing Really Tells Us</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Clarinspect - How Do You Know The Coating Was Applied Correctly? Prove It With FireQA Coatings QA & Log	NZS 4512:2021 – What Inspectors are Seeing 2.15pm – 2.45pm NZS 4512:2021 – What’s working, what’s not working so well, and what’s next? 2.45pm – 3.10pm
2.35pm	SPEAKER: Darren Aitken <i>NZS PAS 4509 Fire Fighting Water Supplies Update</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE BRANZ - Update on the new fire testing laboratory at BRANZ	
3.10 – 3.55pm	Afternoon Tea		
3.55pm	SPEAKER: Cameron Douglas <i>Design Methodology for Timber Columns Exposed to Real Fires - A Thesis Summary</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Mt Hutt Digital - Leveraging e-Learning to up-skill and keep your team safe	Connections Matter: Code for Building Systems Integration 3.50pm – 4.50pm
4.20pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Emma Sutcliffe <i>Identifying Battery Fire Hazards in a Post-Natural Disaster Environment</i>		
5.00pm	SPEAKER: Charles Boyce <i>Passive Fire Compliance for Modular Construction</i>		
5.25pm	Conference Close / Recap		
5.35pm	Drinks and Canapes		
7.00pm	GALA DINNER		
	Close of Day Two		

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PROGRAMME: DAY THREE

Thursday 10th September

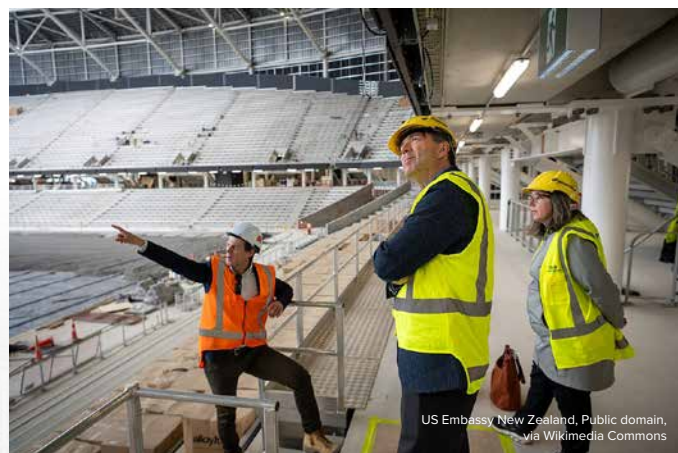
Time	Stream 1	Product Showcase
7.30 – 8.30am	Registration & Trade Show opens	
8.55am	Opening by Event MC	
9.00am	SPEAKER: Darin Millar <i>Te Kaha - One Team</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Steel & Tube - Seismic and Reticulation Solutions
9.25am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Commissioner Gavin Freeman <i>Fire Rescue Victoria - Leading with Integrity in a Complementary Fire Service</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Zone – Expanding Timber Design Options Under NZBC: A Practical Guide to achieving Type A Timber Cladding in NZ
9.55am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: James Lake <i>Fire Sprinkler Protection for Carparks - The Impact of hazard Classification Changes and Evolving Challenges</i>	PRODUCT SHOWCASE Fireshield – Fire Protection Coatings – Case study – OB at NDH
10.35 – 11.10am	Morning Tea	
11.10am – 12.20pm	KEYNOTE COUCH SESSION: Commissioner Gavin Freeman, Emma Sutcliffe, James Lake, Dr Linus Lim <i>How do we make good fire-safety decisions when the evidence isn't complete?</i>	
12.20pm	Formal conference closing address	
12.20 – 1.15pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Trade Show closes	
1.15pm	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr Linus Lim <i>Fire Engineering for an Ever-changing Built Environment</i>	
1.45pm	SPEAKER: Dr Aatif Ali Khan <i>An Open source tool for CFD-FEM modelling for structures in fire.</i>	
2.10pm	SPEAKER: Samuel Aguiar <i>Fire-Stopping Standards in NZ: Comparing EN 1366 and AS1530.4 Frameworks</i>	
2.35pm	SPEAKER: Morteza Taghizadeh <i>Brief introduction of the BCA fire review during the Building Consent process and common fire RFIs - Christchurch City Council</i>	
3.00pm	Conference Closes	

One New Zealand Stadium

Photo: One NZ

The FireNZ Organising Committee are offering a site tour of the ONE NZ – Te Kaha new indoor stadium as part of the 2026 FireNZ conference programme in Christchurch this year.

As a nationally significant and high-profile venue, One New Zealand Stadium – Te Kaha presents a valuable opportunity for conference attendees to gain insight into the fire engineering and wider design considerations of a major public building.



US Embassy New Zealand, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

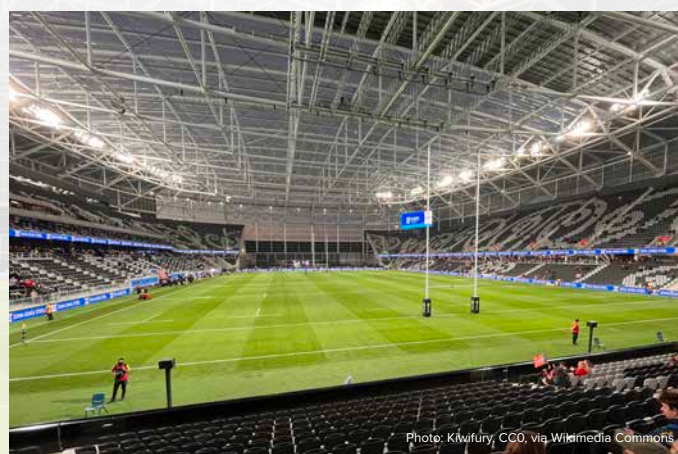


Photo: KIWIFURY, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons





FPANZ TECHNICAL SESSIONS

FPANZ welcomes all members and their field staff, registered FireNZ delegates, exhibitors, and suppliers to the complimentary Fire Protection Association technical sessions to be held in Bealey Room 3 on the 9th of September 2026.

These technical sessions cover a wide range of topics designed mainly to inform our FPANZ members and staff while also providing opportunities for feedback and industry input into areas like standards.

Attendance is free for all FPANZ members staff and all registered FireNZ delegates. These sessions are supplementary to the main conference programme and require pre-registration. Registration is free for the FPANZ technical sessions and the tradeshow and can be completed using the attached form to save time when arriving at the event.

DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

8.15am – 9.15am

**Fire Protection Alterations and Repairs
“Consent or Exempt”**

9.15am – 9.45am

**MBIE - Presentation on Fire Regulatory
Review**

9.45am – 10.30am

**Passive Fire Compliance
Frameworks**

11.20am – 11.45am

**NZS 4541:2020 – How Did It Work
and What’s Next?**

11.45am – 12.20pm

**Pressure reducing valves
(PRVs)**

2.15pm – 2.45pm

**NZS 4512:2021 – What Inspectors
Are Seeing**

2.45pm – 3.10pm

**NZS 4512:2021 – What’s working, what’s
not working so well, and what’s next?**

3.50pm – 4.50pm

**Connections Matter: Code for Building
Systems Integration**



International & Keynote Speakers

We wish to acknowledge and thank all of the Speakers for this year's conference and exhibition.



Lt. Adam W. Lynch

Lieutenant at Engine 250/HazMat Tech Unit 250 of FDNY at New York City Fire Department

Presentation Titles: **Lithium-Ion Battery Fires: Evolving Tactics and Trends; Trends in Electric Vehicle Response Tactics**

Lieutenant Adam W. Lynch is currently assigned to Engine 250 of the FDNY, which is also Brooklyn's Hazardous Materials Technician Unit. He has 20 years of experience with the FDNY with previous assignments including Ladder 11 (Alphabet City/Lower East Side/East Village of Manhattan) as a firefighter, and Division 3 (Midtown Manhattan to Harlem) as a Lieutenant.

As the FDNY HazMat Operations Tech 1 Coordinator, he was responsible for the implementation of training and certification of 1500 firefighters and officers assigned to Special Operations Command Ladders (now relabeled as HazMat Support ladders) to the HazMat Operations Level. He is a regular instructor at the FDNY Fire Academy, tasked with facilitating both the initial and refresher training of Chemical Protective Clothing units, Decontamination Engines, Hazmat Support Ladders, Green Energy Emergency Ops, Foam Ops, as well as HazMat Technician 2.

Lt. Lynch has also delivered classes across the United States as a lead instructor with Hazard 3 as well as being a featured speaker at the International Association of Fire Chiefs HazMat Conference in Baltimore, MD, the Delaware Emergency Mgmt. HazMat Conference, Oregon State Fire Marshall HazMat Conference and the HazMat Instructors Conference (HMIC) in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Prior to joining the FDNY, he was a science teacher for the New York City Department of Education. He is a graduate of Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT with a Double B.A. in Politics and American Studies.



James Lake

Director of Training, International Fire Suppression Alliance

Presentation Title: **Fire Sprinkler Protection for Carparks - The Impact of Hazard Classification Changes and Evolving Challenges**

As the *Director of Training* for IFSA Mr. Lake oversees the development and delivery of IFSA training programs and presentations. He has over 40 years of experience in fire protection including code enforcement in Vestal, NY USA, industry representation at the National Fire Sprinkler Association, codes and standards administration at the National Fire Protection Association and manufacturing at Viking Corporation.

Mr. Lake holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Prevention Administration and a master's degree in education. He has developed and delivered technical presentations and training seminars on numerous topics related to fire protection to large and small groups throughout the United States and around the world.



Commissioner Gavin Freeman

Commissioner, Fire Rescue Victoria

Presentation Titles:

Evaluation of EVIE – Victoria's 'Electric Vehicle for Incident and Emergency: Operational Capability, Environmental Impact, and Economic Feasibility

Fire Rescue Victoria - Leading with Integrity in a Complementary Fire Service

Gavin Freeman was appointed Fire Rescue Commissioner in May 2023. Gavin joined FRV as a Deputy Commissioner in 2020. He previously served with CFA as Deputy Chief Officer and Executive Director for Community Service Delivery. He joined CFA in 2017 from the Tasmania Fire Service where he worked for 32 years, including seven years as Deputy Chief and Chief Officer. Gavin previously acted as Chief Executive Officer/Chief Officer and has been an endorsed Victorian State Response Controller since 2017, including during the damaging 2019–20 bushfire season.

Gavin holds a Master of Emergency Management, a Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership and an Advanced Diploma of Firefighting (Management). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Fire Engineers and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). He is also a certified Strategic Commander under the Emergency Management Professionalisation Scheme. Gavin participates in a range of forums at national and state level.

Until his appointment as Fire Rescue Commissioner, Gavin chaired the Australasian Urban Operations Group and was a member of the Bushfire Risk Advisory Panel, advising the Victorian Government on the implementation of evidence-based bushfire risk management on both public and private land in Victoria.

Gavin was awarded IPAA Fellowship in 2025, he received an AFSM in 2011, the National Emergency Medal in 2013 and a National Medal in 2010. Gavin is also a Director of AFAC – the Australian and New Zealand National Council for Fire and Emergency Services.



Abhishek Chhabra

Director International Initiatives, Firestop Contractors International Association

Presentation Title: **Architecting Trust: Harnessing the ISO 17000 "Toolbox" and FCIA's DIIM™ Framework for New Zealand's Passive Fire Future**

Abhishek Chhabra is an assurance industry expert with over 20 years of experience in conformity assessment across sectors including consumer electronics, machinery, and construction. He possesses deep expertise in international compliance standards from North America, Europe, Britain, ISO, and India.

A passionate advocate for passive fire protection (PFP), Abhishek has worked extensively with Testing, Inspection, and Certification (TIC) bodies to ensure the fire safety compliance of building materials and installations. He is dedicated to educating the fire safety ecosystem including His influence extends to global standards development; he has contributed to the development of standards for BIS (India), SASO (Saudi Arabia), UL (USA), and the UAE Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice. Notably, he contributed to the UK government's "Independent Review of the Construction Product Testing Regime."

Currently, Abhishek represents the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) and the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA), spearheading global awareness of PFP practices.

Beyond fire safety, he empowers professionals through tic.guru, offering specialized educational courses and bespoke consulting for the assurance industry. He also hosts the "Masterclass in Assurance Industry" on Udemy. Throughout his career, Abhishek has remained committed to bridging the gap between technical regulations and their practical implementation to enhance global safety and quality.



Dr Claire Benson

Executive Director, IFE New Zealand

Presentation Title: **Systems in Sync - Fire and Fire Protection Engineering for Hazardous Substances**

Claire has over 20 years of experience working with fire safety, hazardous materials and risk management, and has a PhD in Chemical Engineering. In her role as a Senior Process Engineer at Beca she specialises in industrial risk analysis and chemical safety solutions. Claire has worked on projects in research and development, education, in-house and now consultancy roles, and thrives simplifying complex information and systems for both technical and non-technical audiences. She has provided expertise to projects across the world including the UK, EU-wide, USA, New Zealand, Fiji, and Australia. She is passionate about advancing safety through good engineering to help make the environment a safer place.



Dr Linus Lim

Principal, Holmes

Presentation Title: **Fire Engineering for an Ever-changing Built Environment**

Linus is a Principal at Holmes who specialises in structural fire engineering for steel, concrete, and timber structures. He has over 20 years of international project experience in projects across Australia, New Zealand, the USA, UK, and Singapore. His role entails developing structural fire engineering design strategies for buildings and performance based alternative solutions, working closely with approval authorities and design teams. Linus completed his Doctorate on membrane action and compressive axial restraint in concrete floor systems under fire, and his Masters on the stability of slender concrete walls under fire.

At Holmes, Linus has been involved in a wide range of projects, including developing solutions for technically complex projects and also involved in projects requiring extensive project management. He leads a specialist team of structural fire engineers, working on projects involving response of different types of buildings and structures under fire exposure. Linus also serves on the Australia and New Zealand standards committee for the structural fire design of steel and composite structures.



Emma Sutcliffe

CEO, EV FireSafe

Presentation Titles: **Extinguished or Escalating? Risks of Delayed and Secondary Thermal Runaway in EVs.**
Identifying Battery Fire Hazards in a Post-Natural Disaster Environment

Emma Sutcliffe is the CEO of EV FireSafe, an internationally recognized Australian company at the forefront of research, consulting, training and response to electric vehicle battery fires. She's an operational firefighter and previously worked as a journalist and an EV charging and conversion specialist. EV FireSafe's research work is funded by the Australian Department of Defence.



Guest Speakers



Please note that the speakers and topics are correct at the time of publication but are subject to change if required

Samuel Caloba Aguiar

Codes & Approvals Manager, Hilti New Zealand

Presentation Title: Fire-Stopping Standards in NZ: Comparing EN 1366 and AS1530.4 Frameworks

Samuel Caloba Aguiar is a structural engineer and Codes & Approvals Manager at Hilti New Zealand, based in Auckland. He leads technical approvals and regulatory engagement for anchoring and passive fire protection systems, working closely with designers, fire engineers, regulators, and industry bodies. Samuel is a strong advocate for holistic fire protection performance, encouraging consideration of attributes such as structural movement, seismic response, durability, sustainability, constructability and acoustics alongside fire resistance. His work supports the elevation of fire protection from a compliance exercise to an integrated building performance discipline.

He is actively involved in industry education, standards development, and regulatory discussions, with a particular focus on enabling informed adoption of international best practices where appropriate, while ensuring alignment with NZ's regulatory framework and construction environment. Samuel regularly presents at conferences and webinars, sharing practical, evidence-based insights to support better fire engineering outcomes across the built environment.



Darren Aitken

Presentation Title: NZS PAS 4509 Fire Fighting Water Supplies Update

Darren Aitken is a Senior Policy and Capability Specialist with over 32 years of operational experience in fire and emergency services. He is committed to ensuring legislation and policy translate into effective outcomes for responders and the communities they serve. Darren has been instrumental in progressing future updates to the Code of Practice for Firefighting Water Supplies, with a focus on aligning regulatory intent with practical delivery. His approach is grounded in collaboration, clarity, and a strong understanding of the demands faced by fire services on the ground.



Charles Boyce

Presentation Title: Passive Fire Compliance for Modular Construction

Charles Boyce is the passive fire + compliance manager for Jensen Hughes with over 10 years of experience in the construction industry. Specialising in passive fire protection, waterproofing, and modular construction, he works across the project lifecycle to deliver innovative, cost-effective engineering solutions.

Charles has extensive experience across diverse sectors and a deep understanding of Australian building regulations, including compliance pathways for modern methods of construction (MMC). He is passionate about partnering with clients onsite to provide practical, proactive guidance that ensures compliance while optimising design outcomes.

Known for his collaborative and pragmatic approach, Charles works closely with architects, developers, builders, and installers to create solutions that meet code requirements, enhance design flexibility, and minimise long-term maintenance.

Cameron Douglas

Structural Fire Engineer, PTL | Structural & Fire

Presentation Title: **Design Methodology for Timber Columns Exposed to Real Fires – A Thesis Summary**

Cameron is a Structural Fire Engineer and a graduate from the University of Canterbury (BE(Hons)). Since joining PTL, he has been working towards a Master of Engineering in Fire Engineering (MEFE) part-time. He has a strong interest in numerical analysis of structural mechanics and the behaviour of construction materials, including steel, concrete, timber, and hybrid systems, with a focus on supporting structural design and performance optimisation under a range of conditions.

For his master's research, Cameron analysed the behaviour of timber columns exposed to realistic fire scenarios, which have been shown to remain susceptible to buckling even after a fire appears to be extinguished. The outcome of this work is a design methodology to assist engineers in assessing timber columns following fire exposure.



Nadine Fargier

Senior Consultant Engineer, FM

Presentation Title: **Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage Systems: What the Testing Really Tells Us**

French-trained mechanical engineer with 25 years of experience in the electrical industry, I built a strong technical foundation in complex industrial environments before discovering risk engineering — a space where engineering judgment, experience, and practicality truly matter. I eventually found my professional home at FM, drawn by an environment where strong technical skills are genuinely valued, and where research, testing, and engineering fundamentals shape real decisions on site. Over time, I have come to deeply appreciate how FM's science-based approach enables practical, defensible outcomes — focused on prevention, resilience, and ultimately doing the right thing for the client. Nothing is more rewarding to me than leaving a site knowing the next loss is less likely and the risk is genuinely better managed, not just documented.

Born and bred in France, I moved to Mexico in 2008 and then to New Zealand in 2014. These international experiences have shaped my adaptability, cultural awareness, and hands-on mindset in the field. I see myself as a lifelong learner, continually gaining perspective through site visits and conversations. I believe the best outcomes come from listening, collaboration, and applying knowledge with purpose.

Married for 25 years, I am the proud mother of two adult kids (20 and 23). Outside of work, I recharge through CrossFit, experimenting with arts and crafts, and exploring New Zealand in my campervan — all with the same curiosity I bring to my work.

Dr Aatif Ali Khan

Senior Lecturer, University of Canterbury

Presentation Title: **An Open source tool for CFD-FEM modelling for structures in fire.**

Dr Aatif Ali Khan earned his PhD from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in structural fire engineering. He has provided consulting services for a number of industrial projects globally. He is a Chartered Engineer (CEng) from the Institution of Fire Engineers (UK) and International Professional Engineer [IntPE(NZ)] from Engineering New Zealand.

Currently, Aatif is working as a senior lecturer at the University of Canterbury. His research interests include fire modelling, structural fire safety, use of AI and VR in smart firefighting.



George Hare

Fire Research Engineer, BRANZ

Presentation Title: **Is full encapsulation of mass timber sufficient?**

George started at BRANZ in the commercial fire testing team in 2016, where he undertook product testing. He moved to the Better Buildings Research team in 2018 and has since undertaken research in a number of fields, including risk-informed fire safety design, facade fire safety, mass timber and lithium-ion batteries.

George spent 2025 in Sydney, working for Fire & Rescue New South Wales as the Senior Research Officer and technical lead for the Safety of Alternative and Renewable Energy Technologies (SARET) project before returning to BRANZ in February this year.

Current research projects include, building fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries and the potential unintended consequences of high-performance construction.

George is also involved in the commissioning of the new BRANZ Fire Lab, with three new cube furnaces, ISO 9705 & ISO 13784 test facility, two indoor BS 8414 facade fire test rigs and a 10MW large-scale calorimeter.



Rob Holland

Senior Fire Engineer, RJ Nelligan

Panel Discussion, Wednesday 9th September, 8.30am

Rob first became interested in fire engineering in 2010 and successfully completed his Masters degree in Fire Engineering in 2016 before becoming a Chartered Professional Engineer (Fire) in 2021. In this time he has gained a wide range of experience assisting clients design buildings using Acceptable Solutions, Verification Method and Alternative Solution compliance pathways. As part of his contribution to the industry, Rob is the current Vice President of the SFPE NZ chapter and Treasurer of the NZ Society for Engineering Safety (an Engineering NZ Technical Interest Group). It was through his work with the latter of these two groups where he collaborated with Construction Health and Safety NZ (CHASNZ) to present a webinar and develop an infographic to improve fire safety outcomes for construction sites. He hopes that the session at FireNZ this year will progress the work across industry to improve our fire safety record on construction sites.



Natasha Leniston-Bagnall

Student, University of Canterbury

Presentation Title: **Strength of Woodcrete under Fire Conditions**

I am Natasha Leniston-Bagnall, I recently completed a Bachelor of Civil Engineering with a minor in Structural Engineering at the University of Canterbury. As part of my undergraduate studies, I completed research on the strength of "Woodcrete", a concrete mixture utilising wood chips as a replacement for stone aggregate, under fire conditions. I am currently studying a Master of Fire Engineering Studies at the University of Canterbury.



Darin Millar

Fire Practice Leader, Holmes Group

Presentation Title: **Te Kaha - One Team**

Darin has been a practicing Fire Engineer since circa 1995, working on projects in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Spain. Current industry engagement contribution to:

- SFPE Executive
- Fire Advisory Committee - Liason between University of Canterbury and Industry bodies.



Tim Mitchell

Wildfire Manager, FENZ

Presentation Title: **Emerging Wildfire Risks and Issues in New Zealand**

Tim Mitchell is the Wildfire Manager for Fire and Emergency New Zealand, based in Christchurch. He has over 30 years of experience in wildfire management, emergency management, and local government, having worked across operational, planning, intelligence, and leadership roles.

Tim began his career with Selwyn District Council, where he held a range of positions including Rural Fire Officer and Emergency Management Officer before joining the New Zealand Fire Service. He has since held national portfolios covering fire weather, wildfire research, and wildfire investigation, and currently leads Fire and Emergency New Zealand's wildfire capability, preparedness, and risk management activities.

Tim has extensive incident management experience, including serving as an Incident Controller and Planning and Intelligence Manager on numerous incidents and Incident Management Teams. He has also deployed internationally to support wildfire operations in the United States, Australia and Canada and represents New Zealand on a number of international wildfire forums and collaboration groups, supporting the exchange of knowledge, research, and best practice across the global wildfire community.



Darren Prinsloo

Zero Harm Manager, Hawkins

Panel Discussion, Wednesday 9th September, 8.30am

Darren is the Zero Harm Manager for Hawkins on the Domestic Jet Terminal project at Auckland Airport, supporting the construction of the new terminal within a live and operational airport environment. Darren is an experienced health and safety professional with a background across major construction, petrochemical, oil and gas, and other high-risk operational environments. His experience includes managing complex work environments involving high-consequence risks, multiple contractors, and operational interfaces. Darren takes a practical approach to health and safety, working closely with project teams and workers to manage critical risks, strengthen controls and to make meaningful improvements.

Paul Richards

Fire Engineering Team Leader, FENZ

Panel Discussion, Wednesday 9th September, 8.30am

Paul Richards is the Fire Engineering Team Leader for Fire and Emergency based in Christchurch. He has been a fire engineer for approximately 20 years and was a technical advisor in the oil industry before that. He has provided fire engineering expertise a large range of complex projects throughout New Zealand as well as Australia, the Pacific island and in Antarctica. His approach connects fire engineering principles to practical real world construction to ensure outcomes are achievable.

Dr Mayank Shrivastava

Sr. Structural Fire Engineer, HERA

Presentation Title: **Fire Resistance Assessment of Steel Columns Embedded in Two-Way Fire Rated Wall Systems**

Dr. Mayank Shrivastava is a Senior Structural Fire Engineer at HERA (Heavy Engineering Research Association of New Zealand). He holds a PhD in Structural Fire Engineering from the University of Canterbury and has more than 17 years of experience in structural design, structural fire engineering research, software development and industry practice in New Zealand and internationally.

At HERA, Mayank leads research and industry initiatives that connect structural performance, fire safety and sustainable construction. His work covers performance-based fire engineering, advanced design methods and practical engineering tools that support efficient, reliable and evidence-based fire protection design. He has made significant contributions to the fire engineering of steel and composite structures, with particular interests in fire protection optimisation, inherent fire resistance and circular-economy approaches, including reusable steel structural systems.

Mayank works closely with industry, researchers and regulatory stakeholders through applied research, consulting, technical training and standards development. He is passionate about translating research into practice, strengthening the integration of structural and fire engineering, and advancing safer, more resilient and lower-carbon buildings.



Morteza Taghizadeh

Fire Engineer, Christchurch City Council

Presentation Title: Brief introduction of the BCA fire review during the Building Consent process and common fire RFIs - Christchurch City Council

I hold a Master of Engineering in Fire Engineering from the University of Canterbury and am a Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) specialising in fire engineering. I have over eight years of professional experience delivering fire engineering services across the building sector.

My early career was spent with consulting engineering firms, where I worked on a wide range of fire engineering tasks, including performance based fire safety design and regulatory compliance assessments for commercial, residential, and public buildings.

I am currently a Fire Engineer within the Engineering Services team at Christchurch City Council, with more than three years' experience undertaking Building Consent Authority fire safety reviews. My role involves assessing fire engineering reports, calculations, and consent documentation for compliance with Building Code Clause C for new buildings under Section 17, alterations under Section 112, and changes of use under Section 115 of the Building Act 2004.

I am also involved in specialist regulatory assessments, including requests for waivers or modifications of the Building Code and evaluations of existing buildings to determine whether they are dangerous under Section 121 of the Building Act. This role provides a unique regulatory perspective on common fire safety design challenges and BCA expectations.



Xiang Zhou

University of Canterbury

Presentation Title: Transferable and Robust AI Modelling for Smart Firefighting Using Graph Neural Networks

Xiang Zhou is currently a PhD candidate in Fire Engineering at the University of Canterbury, supported by the UC-CSC Joint Scholarship (University of Canterbury and China Scholarship Council). His research focuses on fire dynamics, temperature field prediction in tunnel fires, numerical simulation of building fires, and the application of artificial intelligence in fire engineering.

He has published and contributed to several academic papers, including experimental studies on temperature distribution in tunnels under longitudinal linear fire sources and numerical reconstruction models for complex building fire incidents. He is currently working on a project titled "Predictive Modelling for Firefighting Applications Using Transferable and Continually Learning AI Models," which integrates advanced machine learning techniques with fire science. His research aims to bridge theoretical innovation and practical engineering applications.



We wish to acknowledge and thank all of the Speakers for this year's conference and exhibition.



INDUSTRY AWARDS AND GALA DINNER

9TH SEPTEMBER 2026 • TE PAE, CHRISTCHURCH

The FireNZ committee wish to present the annual awards that become recognised as being representative of the entire New Zealand fire industry and create a legacy that becomes an aspiration for achievement.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD CATEGORIES:

Mt Hutt E-Learning Emerging Fire Professional/
Technician Award

Ryanfire Fire Engineering Excellence Award

Onestaff Excellence in Service Award

FireZone Sustainability Award

Fireshield Innovative Product Award

Bensan Best Active Project Award

BossFire Best Passive Project Award

*"The fire industry awards represent the best of the fire industry
and recognise those that contribute to achieving a safer New Zealand"*



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ENTRIES OPEN 5 JUNE

The FireNZ committee would once again like to recognise the industry participants who have excelled in their fields.

“The fire industry awards represent the best of the fire industry and recognise those that contribute to achieving a safer New Zealand”

Entries are now sought for several awards to be presented at this year's FireNZ conference and exhibition, 8th – 10th September 2026, in Christchurch.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD CATEGORIES:

Mt Hutt E-Learning Emerging Fire Professional/Technician Award
Ryanfire Fire Engineering Excellence Award
Onestaff Excellence in Service Award
FireZone Sustainability Award
Fireshield Innovative Product Award
Bensan Best ACTIVE Project Award
BossFire Best PASSIVE Project Award

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*These rates are available for stays between 7 September 2026 and 9 September 2026 (inclusive).

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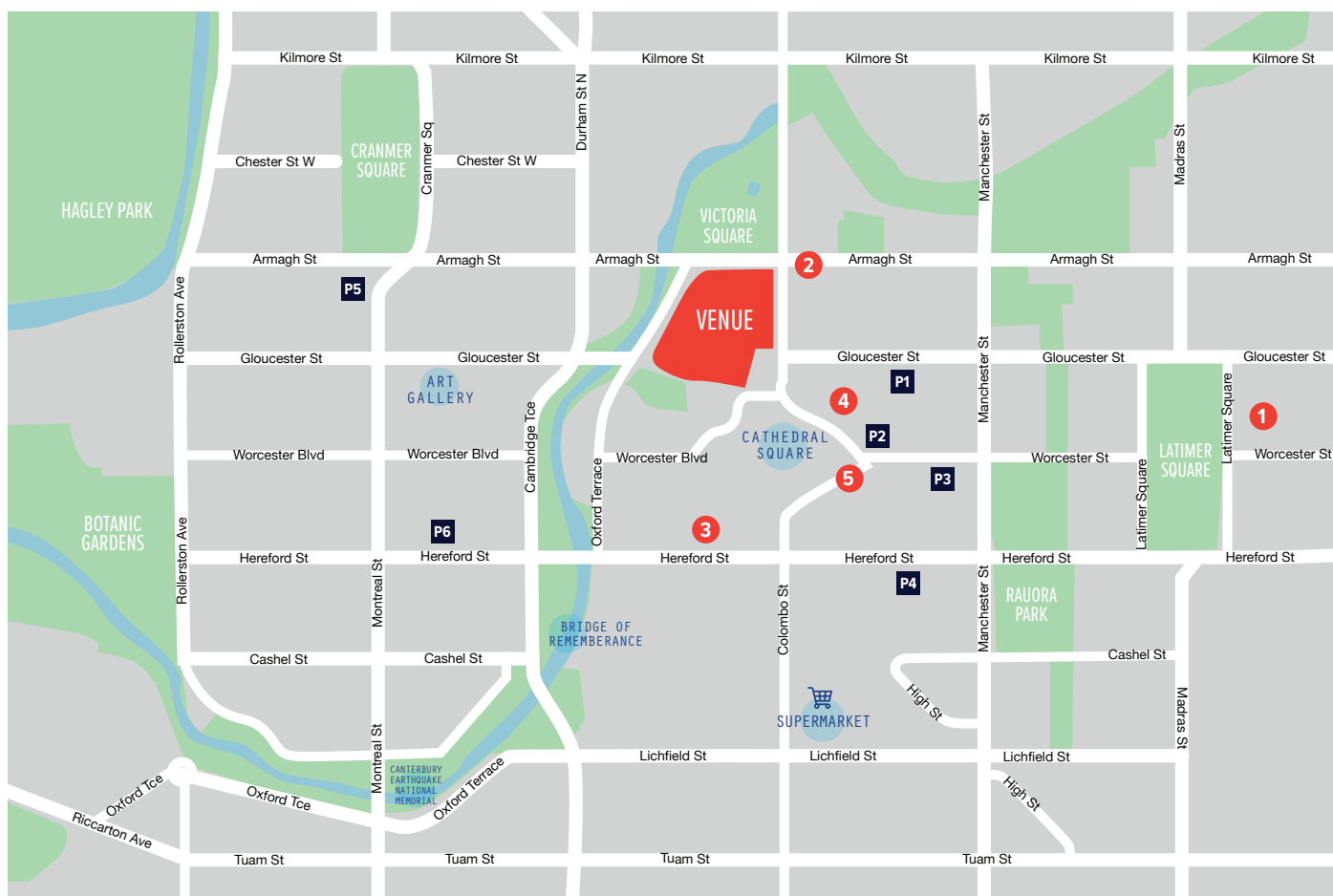
Distinction Christchurch Hotel is pleased to extend special accommodation rates to those delegates attending the Fire NZ Conference. For more information, [click here](#)

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PAYMENT: A tax invoice will be provided on receipt of the registration form. Delegates can also choose to pay by credit card, using either Visa or Mastercard. A surcharge applies to all credit card transactions.



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CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

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