## From Tragedy to Triumph – What Grenfell Means for Leading in Fire, Life, and Electrical Safety

#### Michael J. Popich, CBO Regional Director | NFPA

9<sup>th</sup> International Tall Building/High Rise Building Fire Safety Conference April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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### In 2018, NFPA introduced the NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem<sup>™</sup>

Created in response to Grenfell and other devastating events, the ecosystem is a framework that defines the elements necessary to create and maintain an effective safety environment; the interconnected components mean that the failure of a single element can compromise the entire system, resulting in deaths, injuries, and property loss.







### **The Findings**

#### Phase 1 Report – published, 2019

 Fire itself and the events immediately surrounding it.

#### Phase 2 Report – published, September 2024

 Provides context for broader issues including building regulations, fire safety, social housing.

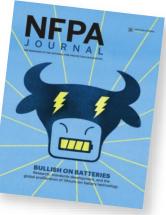


### The Grenfell Tower Fire and the Ecosystem

Findings from the Grenfell Tower inquiry have provided us with an in-depth examination of the systemic failures that contributed to this tragic event.

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"The Grenfell Inquiry has revealed gaping holes in the procedures for ensuring building safety, from product manufacturers, test laboratories, third-party certifiers, builders, architects, and even regulators."

> **Richard Hull**, professor of chemistry and fire science, University of Central Lancashire



### Valencia, Spain

In February 2024, 10 people died in a high-rise apartment fire in Valencia, Spain, an outcome blamed on the rapid fire spread generated by the building's exterior ACM panels that included a polyethylene core.

- 10 lives lost
- 450 residents displaced
- Fire engulfed entire building within 30 minutes



"Most countries don't want to ask how many buildings have it ...

If you start asking, you'll find a number you won't know what to do with.

*And* if you have 5,000 buildings [with it], there could be <u>a fire ev</u>ery year." *Guillermo Rein,* professor of Fire Science, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imperial College, London



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### The Ecosystem challenge

In June 2022, five years after Grenfell Tower burned, the government announced building regulation changes throughout the UK that banned the type of ACM panels that had been used on the building's exterior. The revised regulations took effect in December of that year. GRENFELL

### **Embracing the Safety Ecosystem**

- A well-articulated safety ecosystem
- Need transparency
- Acknowledge risk
- Collaboration

DM

DMC















# Thank You!

9<sup>th</sup> International Tall Building/High Rise Building Fire Safety Conference Indianapolis, Indiana USA 7 – 9 April 2025

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