

# 9<sup>th</sup> International Tall Building/High Rise Fire Safety Conference



Indianapolis, US | April 7th-9th 2025

Indiana Convention Center 100 S Capitol Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46225



9th International Tall Building High Rise  
Fire Safety Conference  
7 – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025  
[www.tallbuildingfiresafety.com](http://www.tallbuildingfiresafety.com)



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RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED QUALIFICATION

# The World's Leading Dedicated Training Course in the Management of Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings



**“ This is the best competency based fire safety management course I have attended.**

*It was an exceptional course and one I would highly recommend. Your delivery of the course content, follow-up presentation materials and supporting documents, and indeed your breadth of knowledge and experience around the management of fire safety was second to none. ”*

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## Tall Building Fire Safety Management Course

26 – 30th May 2025 - Face to face | Cyprus | [bookitbee.com](https://bookitbee.com)

**£2,195.00**  
+ BOOKING FEES

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## Tall Building Fire Safety Management Course

23 - 27th June 2025 - Face to face | London

**£2,195.00**  
+ BOOKING FEES

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## Tall Building Fire Safety Management Course

15 - 19th September 2025 - Face to face | London | [bookitbee.com](https://bookitbee.com)

**£2,195.00**  
+ BOOKING FEES

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## Tall Building Fire Safety Management Course

6 - 10th October 2025 - Face to face | London

**£2,195.00**  
+ BOOKING FEES

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Contact Russ Timpson  
to book a place  
or an 'In-house' course:

**+44 (0) 7951 190 576**

**[russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com](mailto:russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com)**

**[www.tallbuildingfiresafety.com](https://www.tallbuildingfiresafety.com)**



# Content

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Please note the conference programme may be subject to change at short notice. For reason beyond the control of the conference organisers



## Conference Sponsors

A big thank you to all sponsors  
that made the conference possible.





## Welcome to the 9th International Tall Building Fire Safety Conference

### DAVID RHODES

#### VICE PRESIDENT OF CONTENT AND EDUCATION FIRE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE (FDIC)



Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

On behalf of the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC), it is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 9th International Tall Building/High Rise Fire Safety Conference, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. This conference stands as a pivotal gathering for professionals dedicated to advancing fire safety in tall

buildings, a sector that presents unique challenges to fire service personnel, building engineers, and occupants alike.

The conference agenda is meticulously crafted to address these challenges, featuring insights from global experts and thought leaders. Each day is structured to provide both knowledge enrichment and collaborative discussions and will also feature topical debates, allowing for dynamic exchanges on pressing issues in tall building fire safety. This format ensures that attendees not only gain knowledge but also contribute to shaping the future of our profession.

We are particularly excited to host this conference in conjunction with FDIC International, the premier event for fire and rescue professionals. This collaboration offers attendees an unparalleled opportunity to engage with a broader community, fostering interdisciplinary learning and networking.

Your participation is vital to the success of this conference. It is through the sharing of experiences, challenges, and solutions that we collectively enhance our capabilities and improve safety outcomes in tall buildings worldwide.

We look forward to your active engagement and to the enriching discussions that will undoubtedly emerge from this gathering.

Sincerely,  
David Rhodes

### MARK REILLY

#### CONFERENCE MANAGER AUSTRALIA



Tall Buildings Conference at the  
Fire Department Instructors Course  
International Indianapolis Monday 7th  
to Wednesday 9th April, 2025

G'day my name is Mark Reilly, and I'd like to welcome you to the Tall Buildings Conference being held in conjunction with the largest professional Fire Department Instructors Conference in the United States of America.

Your decision to attend the Tall Buildings Conference at FDIC is a mark of your commitment to professionalism and safety whether you're an architect, a fire engineer, a manufacturer of fire safety equipment or 'the last resort' a firefighter!

We all know that firefighting is a complex, dangerous and life-threatening occupation. It depends on many variables from how structures are designed, constructed and the materials they are built with through to a range of other factors. All these factors combine before we introduce the training, equipment and knowledge of the firefighters necessary to identify and deal with fire incidents.

I hope you have a great conference, and I look forward to meeting you.

Mark Reilly





## FAC LIGHTS YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE 'FIRE INSIDE'

A best-in-class air management training program for high-rise & big box firegrounds; 2025 dates are here: [aircoalition.org/events](https://aircoalition.org/events). The Fire Inside is your passion for learning that can help launch you from a good firefighter into a great one.



## MORE AIR, MORE TIME™ STOKES THE FIRE INSIDE

**Air is a Firefighter's Lifeline.  
More Air means More Time.**

Without air, there is no fight. More Air, More Time™ is a new movement for firefighter air supply.

An SCBA will give a firefighter approximately 14 working minutes on one 30-minute cylinder of air. Manufacturers and industry leaders are constantly looking for ways to increase or extend the working air supply - because AIR is a firefighter's lifeline. Without air - nothing can be done.

The industry has made tremendous progress in technology and tools to provide safer and healthier working environments for firefighters. What will never change is the human element. Whether it's a 30- or 45-minute bottle, that amount of time becomes the lifespan of a firefighter entering an IDLH environment.



**Find out more about the Firefighter Air Coalition and its campaign for More Air for More Time.**

## HOW THE FAC IS WORKING TO HELP YOU:

The FAC is focused on the development of new air management technologies, best practices and training that optimize time as a critical factor to help responders do their job on the fireground. Including in the ever-changing landscape of high rise and big box structures.

Through the More Air, More Time movement the FAC will educate municipal leaders, developers and risk managers about the obstacles fire departments and firefighters face in protecting huge buildings and the citizens inside.

The Firefighter Air Coalition (FAC) is a dedicated team of fire service leaders who are committed to sharing their knowledge and experience on all things relevant to firefighter air. All of this education and wisdom is brought to the forefront by FAC which is dedicated to firefighter air management, air management technology, research and training.

FAC has joined forces with a growing list of partners to highlight technology that provides firefighters with more air. These solutions include air standpipe systems, continuous breathable air solutions, SCBA charging, mobile air storage, and other custom tools.

We want you to be more productive on the fireground. To spend more time fighting fires. To get home safely, time after time. To make precious family memories over the long haul of Time by avoiding exposure to smoke's toxic particulates that can lead to cancer, illness and disease.

*The sheer size of these structures is almost impossible for departments to staff without **advanced air technology** that gives firefighters a **continuous air supply**.*

– Mike Gagliano

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FIREFIGHTER  
AIR COALITION

Booth #12011

# AIR IS YOUR LIFELINE.

Visit [aircoalition.org](http://aircoalition.org)

## MORE AIR, MORE TIME™

Air Management Insight, Information & Training

Get the latest air management technologies, best practices and training to optimize time as a critical factor on the fireground.

New training methods & attack strategies for high-rise and big box structure fires.

Advanced technology that provides firefighters with more air. Info on standpipe systems, continuous breathable air solutions, SCBA charging, mobile air storage, and more.

Follow us on social! Get monthly updates, new Air Management insights, and training near you.

*Today's firefighters need to continuously educate themselves and to **utilize the best methods**, preparation and approaches to fireground **safety and survival**.*

– Mike Gagliano

VISIT US ON SOCIAL



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Grow Your Career



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# Conference Agenda

Indianapolis, US  
Monday,  
April 7th 2025

## MONDAY APRIL 7TH 2025

DAY 1

**Chairperson: Randall Hanifen (IFE USA)**

- 08:45** Delegate to be seated for conference
- 08:50** Housekeeping announcement
- 09:00** Official opening – Trent Fearnley (NZ): IFE International President
- 09:10** Keynote 1 – Curtis Massey: 'Reflections on a career in high rise fire safety' (US)
- 09:50** Presentation 1 – Ed Claridge: 'Tall Mass Timber & Fire Safety' (NZ)
- 10:20** Presentation 2 – Chris Greene: 'The Energy Battleship' (US)
- 10:50** Presentation 3 – Gary Dawson: 'Tall Building Emergency Planning Owner/Occupant Emergency Responsibility and Legislation Lessons Learnt' (Australia)
- 11:20** Coffee and networking
- 11:50** Presentation 4 – Jonas Schwering: 'Preventive Fire Protection in High Rise Buildings in Frankfurt – Collaboration between Fire Protection Planners and the Fire Department: From Concept to Realization' (Germany)
- 12:20** Question Time for Speakers
- 13:20** Break – various options for lunch are available.  
(Note: lunch refreshments are not included in delegate fee)
- 14:00** Keynote 2 – Mike Popich, Regional Director NFPA: 'Lessons from Grenfell and the NFPA Ecosystem for Fire Safety'
- 14:40** Presentation 6 – Thomas Burke: 'Role of a Fire Life Safety Director in Tall Buildings' (US)
- 15:10** Presentation 7 – Andrew Brown: 'Regulations, Resilience and Resourcefulness – Fire Engineering Approaches for Buildings in 21st Century and Beyond' (UK)
- 15:40** Presentation 8 – Jerry Tracy: 'Developing Smoke Skills – Because Smoke Kills' (US)
- 16:10** Day – 1 Debate with expert panel
- 17:00** Conference Day 1 ends



# Conference Agenda

Indianapolis, US  
Tuesday,  
April 8th 2025

## TUESDAY APRIL 8TH 2025

DAY 2

**Chairperson: Ben Levy (UK) NFCC**

- 08:45** Delegate to be seated for conference
- 08:50** Housekeeping announcement
- 09:00** Official opening – IFD Chief of Dept Ernest Malone
- 09:10** Keynote 3 – Jake Pauls: 'Reflections on a career in high rise fire safety' (Canada)
- 09:50** Presentation 9 – Mike Gagliano: 'Tall Building Air Management: Firefighter Air Replenishment System' (US)
- 10:20** Presentation 10 – Mike Hadlock: 'Optimizing Fan Performance for Stairwell Pressurization and Evacuation' (US)
- 10:50** Presentation 11 - Katherine Lamb: 'Command and Control at High Rise Incidents' (UK)
- 11:20** Presentation 12 – Justin Lange: 'A science and experience based operational model, low staffing response proposal' (Chile)
- 11:50** Coffee and networking
- 12:10** Presentation 13 – Ray O'Brocki: 'Fire Safety on High Rise Construction Sites' (US)
- 12:40** Question Time for Speakers
- 13:20** Break – various options for lunch are available.  
(Note: lunch refreshments are not included in delegate fee)
- 14:00** DIGITAL FIRE PROTECTION: The Role of Technology in Compliance Management at Tall Buildings / High Rises
- 14:40** Presentation 14 – Sean De Crane: 'Lithium-ion Batteries: Fire Service Perspective' (US)
- 15:10** Presentation 15 – Brandi Srda: 'The challenges of an EV Fire in a subterranean parking garage' (US)
- 15:40** Presentation 16 – Charles Jennings and Glenn Corbett: 'Towering Inferno at 50 Years: Accessing the Legacy'
- 16:10** Day 2 – Debate with Expert Panel
- 17:00** Conference Day 2 closes



# Conference Agenda

Indianapolis, US  
Wednesday,  
April 9th 2025

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 9TH 2025

DAY 3

**Chairperson: Sean De Crane (US)**

- 08:45** Delegate to be seated for conference
- 08:50** Housekeeping announcement
- 09:00** Official opening – Mark Reilly (IFE Australia)
- 09:10** Keynote 5 – Brent Brooks: 'Search and Rescue Operations in High Rise Buildings' (Canada)
- 09:50** Presentation 17 – Anthony Avillo: 'Short Staff Challenges for High Rise Firefighting' (US)
- 10:20** Presentation 18 – Gerard Mann: 'Systems, not scenarios; a modern approach to a complex problem' (Australia)
- 10:50** Presentation 19 – Jimmy Davis: 'Protecting Vertical Cities: The first (5) minutes' (US)
- 11:20** Coffee and networking
- 11:50** Presentation 20 – Olly Sapsford: 'Research and insight for extreme decision – making and expertise in fire operations and command' (UK)
- 12:10** Presentation 21 – Todd Haines: 'JPMorganChase's Global Approach to Fire & Life Safety' (US)
- 12:40** Question Time for Speakers
- 13:20** Break – various options for lunch are available.  
(Note: lunch refreshments are not included in delegate fee)
- 14:00** Keynote 6 – Jack J. Murphy: 'Super-Block Hospital Complex and Response Challenges' (US)
- 14:40** Presentation 22 – Jim Kane: 'Buildings Under Construction: What to Expect'
- 15:10** Presentation 23 – Trent Fearnley: 'Competency and training' (NZ)
- 15:40** Presentation 24 – Terin Hopkins: 'The Modern-Day Fire Problem in Aging High-Rise Buildings' (US)
- 16:10** Presentation 25 – Michael Popham: 'Rapid Line Assisted Casualty Extrication' (UK)
- 16:40** Day 3 – Question time
- 17:00** Conference Day 3 closes – Summary: Mark Reilly





# Crisisboardroom® Kit

## - the 'Go To' Kit for Crisis Events

## A Fire in **HIGH RISE BUILDING** will be a Crisis for the occupants and the managers of the building

Crisisboardroom Compact Kit (High Rise) provides the tools and guidance to respond to a High Rise Fire and other crisis events. For those tasked with managing the safety and welfare of building occupants. Portable, resilient using tried and tested tools, the Crisisboardroom Compact Kit (High Rise) is a simple way to make high rise buildings more resilient.

### Immediate Crisis Impacts for high rise residence after a fire can include:

- ☒ Safety of all those affected by the fire
- ☒ Liaison with responding emergency services
- ☒ Welfare needs of evacuated residents and occupiers
- ☒ Medical support for vulnerable occupants
- ☒ Commencement of home/living continuity planning
- ☒ Logistical provision for displaced pets
- ☒ Security of property
- ☒ Liaison and communication with all stakeholders

### Crisisboardroom Compact Kit will guide you through these crisis challenges

Contact the Crisisboardroom® team to discuss how we equip your business or organisation to become more resilient:

Crisisboardroom Ltd  
Unit 10, Maple Leaf Business Park,  
Ramsgate, Kent, UK. CT12 5GD

Contact email:  
[russ.timpson@crisisboardroom.com](mailto:russ.timpson@crisisboardroom.com)  
[www.crisisboardroom.com](http://www.crisisboardroom.com)







## RUSS TIMPSON

Russ Timpson is the founder and organiser of the Tall Building Fire Safety Network (TBFSN). Started in 2009 the TBFSN seeks to improve fire safety in the Tall Building Environment. RT is a former RN submariner and firefighter. He is a chartered Fire Engineer.

On leaving the Fire Service, RT took up the position of Head of Safety for Virgin Atlantic Airways, leading a multi-disciplinary team of safety, health and environmental specialists. RT was part of the response team that managed the crash-landing incident at Heathrow in 1999.

In 2000, RT was headhunted by BAA (UK airport operator) to lead the response to the major fire at Terminal 1, Heathrow Airport. In the following five years, RT contributed to several major airport construction projects; including the skyway at Gatwick Airport and T5 at Heathrow Airport.

RT was awarded the HSE's award for European Safety and Health at Work achievement 1998 and European Strategic Risk Management Award 2004, International Fire professional of the Year 2015. CIR International Risk Management Award 2017. In 2020, RT was judged to be in the top 10 influencers in the UK for fire safety: <https://www.ifsecglobal.com/ifsec-global-security-fire-influencers/ifsec-global-influencers-in-security-and-fire-2020/>

RT now works as a consulting resilience engineer. Currently promoting the use of the 'Fire Mark' concept to improved occupant awareness of fire safety in buildings. He is the inventor of the Crisisboardroom™ concept for management of crisis events. Crisisboardroom™ has been deployed around the World to make businesses more resilient.

**Mobile:** +44 07951 190576

**Email:** russ.timpson@tallbuildingfiresafety.com

**Web:** www.tallbuildingfiresafety.com



## TERIN HOPKINS

Terin is currently the Public Fire Protection Manager in Codes, Standards, Public Fire Protection and Training Department, for the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Terin has 34 years in public safety, beginning his public safety career in 1981 as

a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT and then serving 25 years with the Prince George's County Maryland Fire/EMS Department, retiring in 2009. He then went to work for the Howard County Department of Fire Rescue Service, Office of the Fire Marshal. In 2018 he was hired as the Mid-Atlantic Field Service Coordinator with NFSA. Terin currently represents NFSA on several technical committees including, NFPA 1 Fire Code, NFPA 14 Standard for the Installation of Standpipes and Hose Systems, UL 47 Standpipe Equipment Technical Committee and the eight fire service training standards covered by NFPA 13E Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems.



## JIMMY DAVIS

James 'Jimmy' Davis is a captain and 29-year veteran of the Chicago (IL) Fire Department assigned to Engine Co. 43 serving Logan Square. He teaches regularly at the Chicago Fire Department R.J. Quinn Fire Academy on a variety of subjects, including the department's high-rise and standpipe programs. He

instructs both nationally and internationally on many subjects relating to high-rise firefighting strategies and life-safety concerns.



## JACK J. MURPHY MA

Jack is a retired Fire Marshal/Fmr. Deputy Chief and served as the Deputy Fire Coordinator for the County of Bergen (NJ). He is the past chairman of the Fire and Life Safety Directors Association of Greater New York and an adjunct professor at John Jay College/ Fire Science Institute (NYC).

Currently serves as the principal for eBuilding Intelligence Solutions (BI) that delivers First Responders and Building Owners critical building data for an emergency event. He is a principal member on the NFPA committees: High-Rise Building Safety Advisory Board; 1660 Emergency, Continuity, and Crisis Management: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; 1082 Facilities Fire/Life Safety Director Professional Qualifications and the 2800 Facility Emergency Action Plans (EAP). He has developed EAPs and BI solutions for high-rise buildings, sport stadiums, health-care facilities and college campuses

As a Fire Engineering Magazine contributing editor has written many fire service articles and the Handbook for Firefighter I and II Chapter on Pre-Incident Planning. He has co-authored the book High-Rise Buildings: Understanding the Vertical Challenges. In 1997, he was appointed an FDNY Honorary Battalion Chief. He is a member of the Clarion/FDIC Fire and Rescue Advisory Board and was the recipient of the 2012 Fire Engineering Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award.



## DR KATHERINE LAMB MIFIREE, MSC (OXON), BSC (HONS)

Dr Katherine Lamb is a respected authority on the training and assessment of Incident Command and crisis decision making. She worked as an accomplished research academic before joining the Fire Service in 2004. During her Fire Service career,

she served in Birmingham, Manchester and Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Services, her final post was as Station Manager of the incident command training team. In 2015, on leaving the Fire Service she developed Effective Command, a behavioural marking system for the assessment and recording of incident command competence. This development tool is accredited by several professional bodies and academic institutions and is used to train and assess incident command competence and crisis decision making. It is widely used throughout the international emergency response community for the training of crisis decision makers. In addition, she runs a dedicated Incident command training company which provides SFJ Awards accredited training courses to 32 UK Fire & Rescue services.



## GERALD 'JERRY' TRACY FDNY BATTALION COMMANDER (RET.).

Chief Tracy retired as the Commander of FDNY Battalion 49, serving 31 years with this department. He was instrumental to refining and improving Policy and Procedures for the FDNY as well as developing numerous training programs. There are several

published articles in Fire Engineering, Fire House magazine and the FDNY/ WNYF training publication. He was the catalyst to the research conducted by NIST, UL and NYU Polytechnic Institute. The study and analysis was specific to Smoke Management and Control and to develop a comprehensive understanding of Fire Dynamics in tall and large buildings. Chief Tracy presented the keynote address at the 2007 FDIC conference and was awarded the Fire Engineering "Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2016. He is a co-author of the book, titled "High Rise Buildings, understanding the Vertical Challenge" printed by Fire Engineering, PennWell Publishing.





## BRENT BROOKS

Brent Brooks is an international speaker and hands on instructor. Brent teaches HighRise Tactics and large diameter hose movements. Brent is currently a Captain with Toronto Fire Services. His 28 year career with firefighting started at Pearson Airport, with continuing duties at (De Havilland) and

Bombardier Aero Space Crash Fire Rescue teams. He is assigned to Toronto's High Rise Unit. Brent has developed the IMS, training and RND for High Rise Operations. Brent's experience includes serving on numerous committees all related to High Rise Firefighting. He continues to travel the world attending conferences, symposiums, and hands on training. He has spoken on complex building systems, help run the 2019, 2020 Canadian HighRise conference, Started the HighRise Round Table in Toronto, hosted the Toronto & Montreal HighRise Summit and is a member of the Council Of Tall Buildings based out of Chicago. He also represents Canada as a member of the T70 Tall Building Safety Committee based out of London England. Brent shares information with Fire Departments from all over the world and has developed a network with subject matter experts related to High Rise Firefighting. Brent has spoke at Firex, Tall Building Conference in London England and "Makin' The Stretch" Conference Colonial Park, PA. Brent continues his education by attend 4 firefighting conferences yearly and never misses HROC in the USA. Brent presents to numerous Fire Departments. Proud retired member of the Canadian Armed Forces.



## GERARD MANN

Gerard Mann is a Station Officer with Fire Rescue Victoria, Australia, bringing 13 years of dedicated service to the fire and rescue profession.

His career has encompassed key roles in policy development, operational planning, training design, and the advancement of structural and high-rise firefighting strategies. As an active operational officer, SO Mann is deeply familiar with the practical challenges and technological gaps posed by today's complex and evolving built environments. Committed to addressing both current and emerging risks, he is passionate about contributing to the continuous improvement of the international fire and rescue service.



## CHRIS G. GREENE SEATTLE FIRE CAPTAIN, RET.

29+ years in the fire service. Retired in June of 2023 as a Captain and the Energy Response Team Supervising Officer for Seattle Fire Dept. I developed Seattle Fire and Seattle City Light's energy hazard response specialty team. I was responsible for

developing protocols and best practices for emergency response incidents that involved energy hazards. This Energy Response Team is the first of its kind. The team is tasked with addressing emergencies involving substations, switchgear, manholes/vaults, transformers, batteries, photovoltaic, overhead and underground electrical hazards, and DC traction mass transportation infrastructure. Additionally, I was responsible for providing all energy training and standard operating procedures for the Seattle Fire Department. In 2017 I was awarded "Seattle Fire Officer of the year" for my work with Seattle City Light in developing the Energy Hazard program. I am a perennial national speaker on energy emergencies as they apply to the National Fire Service and author for Fire Engineering magazine – "Energy Hazards Column". Through Energy Hazard Training, I provide training to both Fire Service professionals and Energy workers throughout the nation.



## THOMAS BURKE

### SENIOR DIRECTOR, CAMPUS FIRE LIFE SAFETY OPERATIONS RELATED COMPANIES

Thomas Burke is an accomplished emergency preparedness professional with extensive experience in corporate security, crisis management, and fire life safety operations.

Thomas is currently a Senior Director with Related Companies in New York City. He is responsible for the Fire Life Safety operation at two (2) commercial campus locations in Manhattan, Hudson Yards and The Deutsche Bank Center at Columbus Circle, each exceeding nine (9) million square feet of commercial, retail, entertainment, and mixed-use high-rise buildings. Prior to joining Related, Thomas oversaw the Fire Life Safety programs at both Rockefeller Center (Tishman Speyer) and Brookfield Place (Brookfield Properties).

Thomas spent twenty-four (24) years with the New York City Police Department, retiring in the rank of Lieutenant – Special Assignment. He also volunteered as firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician in Nassau County, New York.

Thomas has earned certifications from the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), the FEMA Emergency Management Institute, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Nassau County Fire Service Academy, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and received formal training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Thomas is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 225th Session, and currently serves as the 3rd Vice President of the Fire Life Safety Directors Association of Greater New York.



## ANTHONY AVILLO

With 40 years in the fire service, retired as deputy chief of North Hudson (NJ) Regional Fire & Rescue after 30 years of service. As an urban fireground commander, Avillo commanded fire and emergency operations in the most congested cities in the United States. He is the author of Fireground Strategies,

3rd ed. (2015), upcoming 4th edition, and coauthor of Full Contact Leadership (2017). Avillo is the Region 3 Director of the IFSFI and retired Director of the Monmouth County (NJ) Fire Academy. He is a member of the Fire Engineering / FDIC Editorial Advisory Board and was the recipient of the 2012 IFSFI George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award. He has a B.S. degree in fire science and an M.S. degree in national security studies. Avillo is a level II NJ Certified Fire Instructor. Avillo also speaks around the United States on such topics as Command and Control, Leadership, Building Construction, Fireground Strategies and Tactics, and Operational Safety.



## CURTIS MASSEY

Curtis Massey is the CEO of Massey Emergency Management, an industry leading life safety consulting firm which provides pre-planning and digital technology solutions for the commercial real estate sector. The Massey Pre-Plan and Massey App protect many of the tallest and highest profile

buildings in the country. Curtis, a former fire officer and long-time fire service instructor, has been teaching and speaking on the topic of high-rises for many years. He has authored dozens of articles for both fire and real estate magazines, in addition to being interviewed by major media outlets as a subject matter expert.

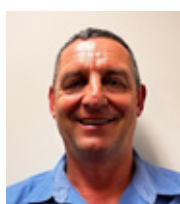




## **BRANDI SRDA** LIFE SAFETY MANAGER NEWCO (EQ) CPP

Brandi began her security career in September, 2007 as a security officer employed by Allied Barton at the then Sears Tower. Over the years she rose through the ranks from security officer to Account Manager, working every Security Supervisor position at the Sears, now Willis Tower. Currently Brandi is the Life Safety Manager for the Willis Tower.

Brandi is a member of the International ASIS and BOMA Chicago organizations and has a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice. She has acquired her Fire Safety Director certification as well as her CPP and is the chair person for the Women in Security through the ASIS organization. Just recently Brandi was the recipient of the ISPA Security Professional of the year award for 2020 in Chicago as well as the Gold Circle Award for Security Professional of the year for 2022.



## **GARRY DAWSON**

Garry Dawson (GiFireE) served with the Military for 15 years and as a Station Officer in the Australian Aviation Rescue & Fire Fighting Service for a further 11 years.

Through that time, he has been involved in many emergency situations and incidents as an active participant and a leader. Having founded Fire EMT

Pty Ltd in Australia, he has served as its managing director for the past 15 years and in the last 12 months started a US operation Fire EMT USA LLC.

These companies provide emergency consultancy, planning, operational continuity, and emergency response instruction to building occupants of commercial and residential buildings including airports, Industrial Complexes and Highrise facilities. He is currently the Fire Safety Advisor for large Australian Corporations including Brisbane Airport Corporation, Griffith University, Avis/ Budget Queensland, and Airbus Helicopters.

He has gained extensive knowledge and experience educating owners/ occupiers of commercial facilities in fire safety compliance specialising in their obligations under relevant codes/ standards and fire safety legislation.

His presentation focuses on how Queensland, Australia progressed from a tragic fatal fire event in 2000 (Childers) to have some of the clearest responsibilities and obligations legislated and enforced by the state fire service introduced 8 years later in 2008. High Rise facilities also have special requirements in the engagement of a suitably qualified fire safety advisor.



## **TRENT FEARNLEY**

I am the CEO of the Association of Building Compliance. I work closely with government and industry to proactively improve the level of compliance in buildings and their fire safety systems through improving qualifications and providing a competency frame work for practitioners. I work

closely with educational institutions and provide expert advice. I recently led a team to develop the Diploma of Fire Engineering in NZ and now creating another programme for Building Compliance.

I have been in the fire and building compliance industry for over 29 years, starting as a firefighter and rising to the National Advisor Fire Risk Management for Fire and Emergency NZ before moving on to my current role. I am also the current International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers and a previous Director. During my career I have worked in Dubai on some of the worlds biggest projects and tallest buildings including the Dubai Metro, Gulf News Facility and Al Maryah Island.



## **ANDREW BROWN**

Andrew started his career in the private fire protection industry in 1998 before becoming a career firefighter in 2000. He has served with metropolitan and county fire services. During his fire service career he operated as a firefighter, officer, incident commander and technical fire safety enforcement officer. He studied post 9-11 terrorism and contingency planning with Price William County FD in Virginia.

During his career, he has acted in a consultancy role to the HSE with respect to fires and explosions in major accident hazard installations, delivered various education and training programmes and held the position of Senior Fire Safety Advisor for an acute NHS Trust with responsibility for multiple sites during Covid.

During his time in the fire service, he qualified as a post-graduate fire engineer and served as part of the headquarters technical fire safety team.

He has presented at international IFE conferences across the U.K. and has written articles for the IFE Journal.

He now holds the position of Principal Fire Engineer at Global HSE Solutions Ltd. U.K. He is currently a member of the IFE, EC, NAHFO, EI, IAFSS and a chartered member of the CMI.



## **BEN LEVY** BED, BENG, MIFIREE

Ben Levy is a highly experienced senior manager at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service. During his 28-year career as a firefighter and officer he has gained significant operational experience.

He has held a wide range of leadership positions, with a primary focus on operational command, safety, technical advice, assurance, and research and development.

As the strategic lead for Fires in Tall Buildings at the National Fire Chiefs Council, he is focussed on advancing techniques and procedures for firefighting, rescue and evacuation in respect of tall buildings. His primary concern is the safety of both firefighters and affected occupants.

Ben recognises that a legacy of design, construction and build issues continue to create a significant challenge to Fire and Rescue Service responders. In response, he continually emphasises the importance of outstanding levels of preparedness for, and response to, fires in tall buildings.



## **JAKE PAULS**

Jake Pauls is one of more-devoted participants over the entire history of the Tall Building/High Rise Fire Safety Conferences. At 82, he is one of the longest active—if not also the oldest, surviving pioneers of the concerns that have focused, for example, on fire dangers and the oldest of responses—escape or evacuation, especially by stairways. With an unparalleled record of over 30 videos, 150 publications and reports, including Jake's first formal report on high-rise fire safety and egress, namely, "Responses to Emergencies in Buildings", in 1969, and over 240 presentations of up to one-day length worldwide, what can possibly be new for the 2025 Tall Building/High Rise Fire Safety Conference audience in Indianapolis? It is the choice of which side of an exit stair is best reserved—as a first priority—for tall building occupant evacuees, when fire service personnel must simultaneously use the same exit stairway, but in the opposite direction and likely burdened with response gear? Jake will attempt to provide some guidance, as a Certified Professional Ergonomist (CPE), on this question.



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## SEAN DECRANE

Sean DeCrane is the Director, Fire Fighter Health and Safety Operational Services for the International Association of Fire Fighters based in Washington, DC. Prior to assuming his current role, Sean was a Research Engineer Associate for UL Solutions focused on developing strategic planning, project

prioritization and implementation for the UL Fire Research and Development Team while assigned to the Principal Engineers Team for UL's Built Environment COU where he was responsible for engaging with various industry organizations with a focus on the international fire service including Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United Kingdom. Sean served as a 25+ year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Fire, where he held various roles including Director of Training and Chief of Operations.



## JUSTIN LANGE

Justin Lange is a Chilean Volunteer firefighter with eighteen-year experience. He is a fire instructor with Va el Agua, a Hispano-American educational organization focusing on water supply and movement composed of 13 instructors from 5 different countries.

His academic background is neuro-otology and clinical audiology. He is pursuing a career as a Risk Prevention engineer with a master's degree in integrated management and various specializations in disaster risk reduction, pedagogical tools, clinical simulation, and digital educational tools.

During his career, he has filled training and operational roles. Justin has authored several SOP's and technical notes on cancer prevention, fireground and high-rise operations, smoke blockers, and human rights in fire education. He is currently working on educational courses related to highrise fires operations, engine company operations, and tactical ventilation.



## RANDALL W. HANIFEN PH.D., CFO, FIFIREE

Dr. Randall W. Hanifen is an Assistant Chief of Operations for West Chester (OH) Fire, an Associate Professor at the American Public University's Emergency Management Program, an Adjunct Professor for University's Fire Science Program,

and CEO of a national fire service consulting company. Randall serves as the Executive Director of a regional special operations team, a former Taskforce Leader for FEMA's Ohio Task Force 1 US&R team, President of the Institution of Fire Engineers-USA Branch, and is the Chair of IAFC Company Officers Section. He serves as a member of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer Professional Qualifications standard and NFPA 1026 Incident Management committees. He serves on the Legislative Committee of Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. Randall is credentialed as a Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence and is Fellow grade membership with the Institution of Fire Engineers. He is the associate author of the textbook Disaster Planning and Control (2009). Randall has provided presentations and trainings for the Ohio Fire Chief's Association, Fire Rescue International, Emergency Management Institute, IFE Caribbean and South America Branch, Firehouse Expo, and is a contract instructor for the NFA, teaching courses in the Executive and Managing Fire Officer Programs. He has a B.S. in Fire Administration, an M.S. in Fire Service Executive Leadership and a Ph.D. in Executive Management of Homeland Security. Randall can be reached at [Randall@hanifen.org](mailto:Randall@hanifen.org).



## TODD HAINES

Todd joined JPMorganChase in 2017 and currently is the VP/Global Head of Fire & Life Safety within the Global Real Estate Group, Property Management Section. Todd is responsible for managing and regulatory oversight of the firm's fire and life safety program, to include fire and non-fire emergencies, AED management and first aid, for all corporate offices, data centers and retail branches globally.

Some of his career highlights prior to joining JPMC include: Planning Chief/ Fire Protection Engineer at Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport; Director & Founder of Critical Risk Group & Global Tactical Response Consulting, LLC, a specialty consulting company that focuses on fire protection, hazardous materials management, life safety and security for global partners; Physical Security / Hazardous Materials Specialist for the FBI, Hazardous Materials Response Unit; Engineering Associate with the Austin Fire Department -Special Operations and Hazardous Materials Engineering Divisions and Fire Protection & Safety Engineering for NASA and the Petrochemical Industry.

Todd has been a contributor and technical editor for numerous fire and life safety books, manuals, research projects and articles in addition to being an Adjunct Professor in a Fire Science and Emergency Management associate and bachelor's degree program. Todd continues to be active within the national and international fire service community.



## MARK REILLY CRISIS AND CONSEQUENCE EXPERT

With over 40 years' experience as a frontline Fire Officer, Incident Commander and Crisis and Consequence Manager in fire and emergency response operations nationally in Australia and across the Pacific and Americas, Mark has extensive

experience training and leading firefighters in emergency and disaster recovery operations. Mark has been a Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers for over 30 years and has served as the President of the Institution of Fire Engineers Australia. He has also been Leader of the International General Assembly and a Member of the IFE International Board.



## ED CLARIDGE

Ed Claridge is the Principal Fire Engineer for the Auckland Council and Chief Advisor Fire across the Auckland region. Ed holds an honours degree in Fire Science, a master's degree in Fire Engineering and is a Chartered Professional Engineer. He also holds a number of other memberships and is active with other organisations.

Ed authored two chapters of the Fire Safe Use of Wood – Global Design Guide and has written multiple chapters of the of recently released guidance documents to support the use of mass timber in New Zealand.

Ed is a Companion Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers, has served as Branch Councillor, Executive Director and was President of the New Zealand Branch. He has served as leader of the International General Assembly and is involved with the IFE Technical Strategic Advisory Group.

Ed has been involved in the fire industry for over 25 years and started his career as a fire engineer and risk assessor working mainly within the UK nuclear sector. He has worked at the NZ Fire Service and has been a consultant Fire Engineer on a number of major infrastructure projects.

Auckland Council is the largest local government council in the Southern Hemisphere and is one of the largest approval authorities overseeing approximately 50% of New Zealand's building approvals.









**PETER CALANDRA** SENIOR VICE  
PRESIDENT, RAEI FIRE PROTECTION

Peter Calandra is a highly respected leader in the fire protection and facilities management industry, bringing over 20 years of experience in operational engineering and public sector administration. As Senior Vice President at RAEI Fire Protection, Peter is recognized for his client-centric approach, leadership in operational excellence, and commitment to advancing fire safety services across the New York metropolitan area.

Peter's career began as an Operating Engineer with the International Union of Operating Engineers, where he developed a robust foundation in building mechanical systems and infrastructure. As SVP/Director of Operations at PJ Mechanical Building Services Corp. Peter further showcased his talent for streamlining service delivery and enhancing client satisfaction. He later served as Director of Trades for NYC's Citywide Administrative Services, overseeing large-scale city projects and ensuring code compliance and operational integrity.

Peter joined RAEI Fire Protection in 2020 as Vice President of Client Relations, where he championed client advocacy and led training initiatives around RAEI's proprietary compliance platform, REDi. His outstanding performance earned him a promotion to Senior Vice President in 2022, where he continues to lead company strategy with a focus on innovation, compliance, and customer service.

An alumnus of Columbia University with a background in commercial facilities management, Peter is widely recognized for his contributions to the industry. He has received honors from the U.S. Congress, NYC Mayor's Office, BOMA NY, and other prestigious organizations, underscoring his impact and dedication to the field of fire protection and labor relations.



**STEVE KELTZ** DIRECTOR OF MARKETING  
COMMUNICATIONS, RAEI FIRE PROTECTION

Steve has worked for over 20 years marketing technology and SaaS platforms to all sides of the Facilities Management industry.

As part of the founding team of ServiceChannel, Steve helped grow one of the first contractor management platforms into a leading global provider of SaaS-based multi-site facilities maintenance service solutions serving more than 500 enterprise customers in over 70 countries including Apple, Nike, and Walmart. (ServiceChannel was acquired by Fortive in 2021 for US\$1.2B). Steve has also helped build and grow several disruptive technology startups including SendaGuyNow, an equipment repair-on-demand app for urban restaurants, and Equip ID, a digital asset management platform.

Steve joined RAEI Fire Protection in 2018. There, he integrated RAEI's proprietary technology platform, REDi, into the company's sales and marketing processes and culture. Steve continues to lead the company's communication strategy, focusing on technological innovation, compliance, and thought leadership.

Steve has previously held Executive Creative positions at Grey Global, Ogilvy & Mather, Y&R, and Digitas working with Fortune 100 brands across many industries including Technology, Healthcare, Hospitality, Finance, Entertainment, and Global Facilities Management.



## RAY O'BROCKI

RAYMOND O'BROCKI, CBO, is the Manager of Fire Service Relations for the American Wood Council. Before that he was the Chief Building Official for the City of Rockville, MD. He retired as the Assistant Fire Chief the Baltimore City Fire Department in 2013.

He was appointed fire marshal for Baltimore City in 2008. O'Brocki has served on the Maryland State Child Care Advisory Council, Maryland State Fire Code Update Committee, State Fire Marshals Legislative Working Group in Annapolis and the steering committee for the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference. He has served on the NFPA Urban Fire Safety Task Force and has presented at the National Fire Academy. He is currently a sitting member of the NFPA 1 technical committee. O'Brocki is a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law and a licensed attorney.



## MICHAEL BRÜCKMANN M.ENG.

Michael Brückmann is the head of the Operations Department, Professional Fire Brigade, Volunteer Fire Brigade and Control Center in Frankfurt am Main. In his previous Role he was the head of the Preventive Fire Protection Department. He performs his duties as the highest operational leader in the city of Frankfurt.

He is a dedicated professional in fire safety and civil engineering, known for his leadership in both professional and volunteer fire brigades.



## JONAS SCHWERING M.ENG.

Jonas Schwering is the head of Preventive fire protection department at Frankfurt am Main fire department. He performs his duties as the highest operational leader in the city of Frankfurt. He also chairs the Hesse State Fire Service Association's Preventive Fire Protection Committee and thus represents the interests of the

Hesse fire departments with regard to preventive fire protection in Germany. He studied civil engineering in the field of structural engineering in Darmstadt, Germany. His field of research is fire protection in high-rise buildings and how fire prevention works there.

The expertise of Michael and Jonas has significantly contributed to the enhancement of fire protection standards in Frankfurt am Main.



## MIKE GAGLIANO

Mike Gagliano has over 33 years of fire/crash/rescue experience with the Seattle Fire Department and the United States Air Force. Mike teaches across the country on Fireground Tactics/Decision-Making, Air Management, Leadership and Company Officer Development.

Captain Gagliano has written numerous fire service articles and is co-author of the bestselling books Air Management for the Fire Service and Challenges of the Firefighter Marriage. He is a member of the Fire Engineering/FDIC Advisory Board Firefighter, the Firefighter Air Coalition and the Emeritus Board of the Firefighter Safety Research Institute.

Mike co-hosts the popular Fire Engineering radio webcast "The Mikey G and Mikey D Show" and partners with his wife Anne (Firelife.com) to teach strategies for developing and maintaining a strong marriage/family.



## OLIVER SAPSFORD

Olly Sapsford is a Teaching Fellow in Disaster and Emergency Management at Coventry University and a junior officer in the London Fire Brigade.

From this dual perspective, his research is focused within the field of human factors, more specifically how people make decisions in high - pressure, high - stake environments, intuition and expertise in the context of emergency response.



## GLENN CORBETT P.E.

Glenn Corbett, P.E. is an associate professor of fire science and public management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is the technical editor of Fire Engineering Magazine and is a former assistant chief of the Waldwick, NJ Fire Department. Additionally, he has served as the president of the New Jersey Society

of Fire Service Instructors.

In the wake of 9/11, he testified before the 9/11 Commission as well as several Congressional committees concerning issues of emergency response and terrorism resistant building protection. He served on the Federal Advisory Committee of the National Construction Safety Team that investigated the World Trade Center disaster. In addition, he is the chief technical advisor to the Skyscraper Safety Campaign, a 9/11 family advocacy group dedicated to improving emergency response and high-rise fire protection.

He has spent a large part of his career in code enforcement. He was a fire protection consultant for the City of Austin, Texas Fire Department and was the Administrator of Engineering Services for the San Antonio, Texas Fire Department. He was a member of Mayor Bloomberg's Building Code Task Force in New York City. Corbett currently sits on the New Jersey State Fire Code Council.

Corbett is a co-author of "Brannigan's Building Construction for the Fire Service, 6th Edition." In addition, he is the editor of "Fire Engineering's Handbook for Firefighter I and II." He was the 2013 recipient of the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award presented at the Fire Department Instructors Conference.



## CHARLES JENNINGS PHD, FIFIRE, CFO

Charles Jennings, PhD, FIFireE, CFO. He is the Director of the Christian Regenhard Center for Emergency Response Studies (RaCERS) at John Jay College.

RaCERS is unique as a cross-discipline applied policy first responder research center. He has led work including sponsored research, after action reviews,

and organized events on emergency topics facing the emergency response community. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Security, Fire, and Emergency Management, where he led the development of graduate offerings in emergency management. He has investigated and done research on high-rise building fire safety and consults with fire departments on policies related to codes and response policies. Dr. Jennings has published and researched high-rise fires for the USFA and scholarly journals. He is a former firefighter and officer and has served as Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety in the City of White Plains where he oversaw construction and commissioning of fire safety systems and response for 35-story and 42-story buildings, including functional exercises for water supply and mutual aid. He was the 2023 recipient of the 9/11 Memorial Award from the Fire and Life Safety Directors Association of Greater New York.





## MICHAEL POPHAM

Mike is a serving firefighter and trainer in the UK fire service, has worked internationally in the rope access and rope rescue industry since he was 16 years old; initially in Arboriculture (tree work) but quickly 'branched out' gaining experience as a trainer and technician in a wide range of different

disciplines ranging from, industrial rope access and offshore roles to mountaineering / ski rescue USAR, fire, police and military applications. Mike still works practically on sites in industry, reviews new guidance and legislation for industry bodies and the Health & Safety Executive as well as working with manufacturers to develop new products, systems and test methods. He has a long history of seeking answers to unanswered questions and developing configurational test methods to better replicate the demands of specific applications.



## MICHAEL HADLOCK

Michael Hadlock holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and brings 30 years of experience in machine and product design. For over 16 years, he has focused on the research and development of positive pressure fans at a component level, introducing the first portable,

battery-operated fan to the fire and rescue industry. Under his leadership, his company has remained at the forefront of the industry, driving innovation through a solid foundation of research and design. With a deep scientific understanding of fans and air movement, Michael and his team have developed precise, physics-based models for predicting structure pressurization and ventilation. These models not only clarify fan performance characteristics but also identify limitations and inform strategic, field-ready solutions. Michael's mission is to advance ventilation practices and deliver products that empower first responders, providing safe, effective tools for protecting lives.



## ERNEST V. MALONE CHIEF OF FIRE, INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Malone joined the Indianapolis Fire Department in 1986. He has been promoted through competitive promotion processes, and has held every Merit Rank in the department up to and including Battalion Chief. Chief Malone has served

as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain and Battalion Chief in the Operations/Suppression division of the department. His administrative assignments include, Assistant Director of Training, Fire Marshal, Division Chief of Executive Services and Assistant Chief of Fire.

His Current responsibilities as the Chief of Fire include; overall command and responsibility for all functions of the department. Additional duties include but are not limited to; the development of IFD policy relating to suppression operations, health and safety, training, special operations and emergency medical services. Additionally, the Chief of Fire has direct supervision of the Assistant Chief and Deputy Chiefs assigned to oversee the major functional bureaus of the department such as; Administration, Operations, Logistics, Community Risk Reduction, or other divisions/sections that may be initiated at the direction of the Chief of Fire. Chief Malone meets with other executive staff personnel to outline strategic planning initiatives which seek to identify the goals and objectives designed to position the department for a productive and sustainable future.



## JIM KANE

Jim is an Environmental, Health & Safety Director at Turner Construction Company in New York City, with a background in safety and risk management. He serves on the NFPA 241 Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations and NFPA 51B Standard for Fire Prevention During

Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work Technical Advisory Committees, contributing his contextualized knowledge to advancing industry standards. He is a retired Fire Dept. of the City of New York Firefighter and U.S. Navy veteran. Jim has expertise in emergency response and safety. Jim holds several industry certifications, including Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST), Construction Risk Insurance Specialist (CRIS), and a NYC DOB Site Safety Manager License.



## MICHAEL J. POPICH CBO REGIONAL DIRECTOR | NFPA

Mike is a Regional Director for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) with specific responsibility for the states of Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio.

Mike has worked in various capacities within the construction industry over the past two decades, including roles in contracting/remodeling, sales, and quality assurance. Prior to joining the NFPA, Mike served the citizens of the City of Indianapolis as Manager of the Bureau of Construction Services, where he managed a staff of twenty-seven individuals fulfilling various roles to accomplish the bureau's mission of ensuring public safety through the enforcement of Indiana's statewide fire and building codes.

Mike currently serves as President of the Indiana Association of Building Officials, and his continued dedication to the Association earned him recognition with the Nick Nicholson Education Award in 2019 and the Earl E. Bowman Award for Meritorious Service in 2024.

In 2017, Mike was appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb to the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission, and he has served as the Commission's Vice Chairman since 2019.





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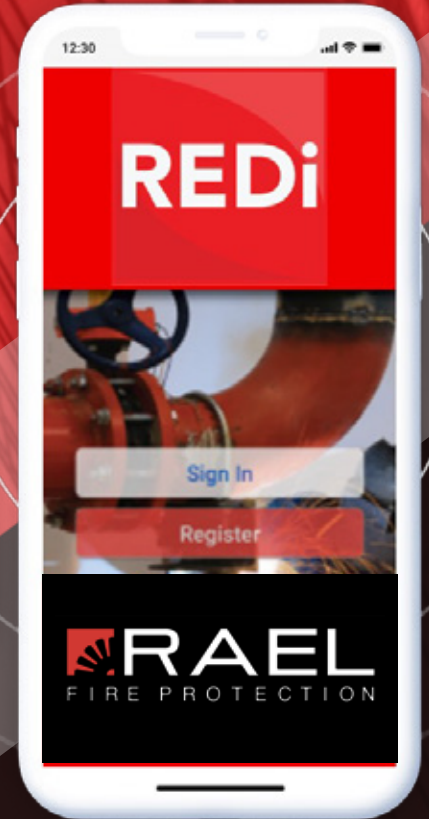
## Notes:

- All conference delegates must pick up their FDIC pass at any main reception. Tall Building Conference reception will be outside the reception room (as per map).
- Tall Building Conference reception will be open on Sunday 6th of April from 3pm till 6pm and from 7am on Monday the 7th of April.
- Conference venue: Room 130 (see map).
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