



# PasFiPro '25

12-13 FEBRUARY

DUBAI, UAE

**FCIA** 

**NFCA** 





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# 2025 FCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the Association to thrive and grow, it needs good leaders, strong leadership. FCIA's Board of Directors is a very diverse and passionate group of Contractors. Each person has chosen to give back to the Association through serving on the Board, participating on Committee(s), and more.

## **PRESIDENT**

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## **VICE PRESIDENT**

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## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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## **TECHNICAL DIRECTOR**

Bill McHugh  
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NFCA's Board of Directors is responsible for steering the organization while adhering to the stated mission of furthering the quality of structural fire-resistance in buildings. To carry out this charge, NFCA Board volunteers meet multiple times per year to provide oversight and strategic direction.

## **PRESIDENT**

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## A WORD FROM THE FCIA & NFCA BOARD PRESIDENTS

Welcome to PasFiPro '25 Dubai, the FCIA-NFCA Passive Fire Protection Symposium.

As we embark on this new year, we are thrilled to share our enthusiasm and vision for the Firestop Contractor International Association (FCIA) and the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA) and the exciting strides we are poised to make in 2025. Building upon our strong foundations and the collective dedication of our members, we are committed to further solidifying FCIA and NFCA's positions as the leading voices and resources for structural and effective compartmentation Passive Fire Protection worldwide.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of our success. FCIA and NFCA are dedicated to fostering stronger connections within the Passive Fire Protection community and beyond. Our initiatives in 2025 will focus on:

- **Strategic Partnerships:** We will forge new alliances with key organizations in the building and construction industry, including Contractors, Engineers, Inspectors, and like-minded Associations. Growing these relationships, we believe will benefit the entire Passive Life Safety Industry for years to come.
- **International Growth & Development:** Abhishek Chhabra, the FCIA & NFCA Director, International Initiatives, has been seen at in-person and virtual events around the world and digital communities spreading the word of Passive Fire Protection. He has been working tirelessly to bring together key decision makers and influencers in the construction community. This year, begins with the FCIA-NFCA PasFiPro '25 Doha and Dubai events that will be elevated in attendance and scope thanks to Abhi's tireless efforts to connect folks in the passive life safety world.

We are confident that 2025 will be a year of remarkable progress for FCIA, NFCA, and our members. With your continued support and active participation, we will elevate the structural and compartmentation Passive Fire Protection industries to new heights and make our buildings safer for all.

Mathew Stephenson, 2024 NFCA Board President



FCIA & NFCA Committees are comprised of Member volunteers who work together on various pieces of Association business, from Codes and Standards development to Marketing outreach and more. This collaboration is how we gain industry consensus on issues related to the improvement of fire and life safety in buildings around the globe and how we create opportunities for the growth of our industry.

Consider volunteering your time and talents with one of the following Committees. Contact the Committee Chair(s) or [lissettek@cmservices.com](mailto:lissettek@cmservices.com) for additional information or to inquire about joining a Committee.

## FCIA COMMITTEES

### ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Ben Urcavich, DRI - Chair  
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## FCIA COMMITTEES continued

### EDUCATION TASK GROUP: FCIA MANUAL OF PRACTICE (MOP)

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### INSPECTION COMMITTEE

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## FCIA COMMITTEES continued

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## NFCA COMMITTEES

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### MANUFACTURER COMMITTEE

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## NFCA COMMITTEES continued

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

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### SAFETY COMMITTEE

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### TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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# WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA?

## PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

FCIA and NFCA partner this year for PasFiPro '25, the FCIA-NFCA Passive Fire Protection Symposium Dubai. The educational Symposium provides education and networking opportunities for fire-resistance-rated structural and effective compartmentation - Passive Fire Protection - experts to enhance proficiency and make essential connections to set yourself as the true expert that you are.

## 12 FEBRUARY 2025

### GAZELLE 1 & 2 (1st FLOOR)

All times listed are in GMT+4

0830 am – 1630 pm	Symposium Registration Open
0830 am – 0900 am	Welcome Tea & Coffee
0900 am - 0915 am	FCIA & NFCA Welcome: The Visions, The Missions, The Associations <i>Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA   Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA</i>
0915 am - 1000 am	Passive Fire Protection - An Expert Witness View & Cases <i>Peter Van Gorp, HKA Global Limited</i>
1000 am - 1045 am	Code & Standards Requirements for Passive Fire Protection <i>Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA   Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA</i>
1045 am – 1100 am	Break
1100 am – 1145 am	Registration of Firestopping System Suppliers & Contractors in Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority: Process, Challenges, and Compliance <i>Capt. Eng. Mohamed Alhanaee, Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority</i>
1145 am - 1230 pm	Evaluating Passive Fire Protection in Risk Assessment: A Holistic Approach <i>Sourav Chatterjee, Lockton (MENA) Limited</i>
1230 pm - 1300 pm	Firestopping & Fireproofing Contractor Accreditation Programs <i>Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA</i>
1300 pm - 1345 pm	Luncheon
1400 pm - 1445 pm	An Introduction to the New UL Solutions Technical Evaluation Developer Program <i>Ghaith Bakir, UL Solutions</i>
1445 pm - 1530 pm	Fire-Rated Ducts & Penetration Seals: Is “Mix & Match” Acceptable? <i>Sebastian Ukleja, Emirates Safety Laboratory</i>

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## 12 FEBRUARY 2025 continued

### GAZELLE 1 & 2 (1st FLOOR)

All times listed are in GMT+4

**1530 pm - 1615 pm**      **Maintaining Protection - Structural Fire-Resistance and Effective Compartmentation**  
*Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA | Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

**1615 pm - 1630 pm**      **Closing Comments**  
*Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA | Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

### **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

FCIA's Education for the Firestop and Fireproofing Exams helps prepare Specialty Installation Contractors and Special Inspectors to pass the FM or UL Firestop Exams. Passing the Exams is required for Firestop Contractors to attain and maintain FM 4991 Approved or UL Qualified Firestop DRI status and for Firestop Inspectors to prove competence to AHJ's or International Accreditation Services IAS AC 291 Special Inspection Agency responsible individual status.

## 13 FEBRUARY 2025

### GRANADA 4 (1ST FLOOR)

All times listed are in GMT+4

**0800 am - 1200 pm**      **Firestop Exam Registration Open**

**0800 am - 0830 am**      **Welcome Tea & Coffee**

**0830 am - 1000 am**      **FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exams**  
*Bill McHugh, FCIA*

**1000 am - 1015 am**      **Break**

**1015 am - 1130 am**      **FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exams, continued**  
*Bill McHugh, FCIA*

**1130 am - 1300 pm**      **Quality Management System Manual Development Education**  
*Bill McHugh, FCIA*

**1300 pm - 1345 pm**      **Luncheon**

**1400 pm - 1730 pm**      **FM & UL Firestop Exam for DRI Candidates & Inspection Personnel**

**Note:** The UL Firestop Exam is an OPEN BOOK exam. UL Exam Participants **MUST** provide their own copy of the FCIA Manual of Practice. The FM Firestop Exam **DOES NOT** allow use of the MOP during the exam.

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## 12 FEBRUARY 2025

### 0900 am - 0915 am

**FCIA & NFCA: The Visions, The Missions, The Associations**  
*Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA | Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

In this session, you'll learn about the origins of the Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA) and National Fireproofing Contractors Association (NFCA), what the missions and guiding principles are, and how both groups advocate and work to further the Passive Fire Protection industry in the Gulf Region.

### 0915 am - 1000 am

**Passive Fire Protection - An Expert Witness View & Cases**  
*Peter Van Gorp, HKA*

Have you ever wondered what an expert witness actually is? What kind of claims does a Technical Fire Expert get involved in?

In this session, we outline the role of an expert witness, analyze the types of claims a Technical Fire Expert is involved in, as well as discuss some typical issues with Passive Fire Protection. Then, we review some case studies to determine what can be learned from past fire incidents.

### 1000 am - 1045 am

**Code & Standards Requirements for Passive Fire Protection**  
*Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA | Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

Once the Building Codes specify Standards, understanding what the Standards evaluate is critical to proper 'D'esign, 'I'nstallation, 'I'nspection, and 'M'aintaining Protection.

This session covers structural fire protection, compartmentation, and firestopping fire test Standards.

### 1100 am - 1145 am

**Registration of Firestopping System Suppliers & Contractors in Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority: Process, Challenges, and Compliance**  
*Capt. Eng. Mohamed Alhanaee, Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority*

This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of the registration process for firestopping system suppliers and contractors with Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority (ADCDA). It covers the regulatory framework, documentation requirements, approval procedures, and compliance responsibilities.

The session will also address the real challenges faced during and after the registration process, market inconsistencies, and then will highlight best practices to navigate them effectively.

### 1145 am - 1230 pm

**Evaluating Passive Fire Protection in Risk Assessment: A Holistic Approach**  
*Sourav Chatterjee, Lockton*

This presentation will explore the critical role of Passive Fire Protection (PFP) systems in comprehensive fire risk assessments, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach which goes beyond simply assessing individual components of PFP. This holistic approach involves integrating PFP systems into the broader context of risk management.

Attendees will learn to balance the potential risks and benefits of Passive Fire Protection measures, factoring in real world scenarios and potential failures.

After this session, attendees will:

- Understand the role of PFP systems in overall fire safety and how Insurance Risk Engineers evaluate PFP during risk assessments;
- Develop a deeper understanding of



the life cycle of passive fire protection measures and their maintenance and how it affects ongoing risk assessments;

- Connect the correlation between PFP adequacy, Insurance risk scores, loss estimate calculations, and technical premium;
- Examine the impact of passive fire protection on building evacuation plans.;
- and Develop strategies for integrating Passive Fire Protection into a comprehensive fire risk management plan to ensure both safety and regulatory compliance.

## 1230 pm - 1300 pm

### **Firestopping & Fireproofing Contractor Accreditation Programs**

*Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

FCIA worked closely with UL to build the UL Qualified Firestop Contractor Program and FM Approvals for the FM 4991 Standard for the Approval of Firestop Contractors.

NFCA developed the NFCA Contractor Accreditation Program, which supports UL's Qualified SFRM Contractor Program.

Learn more about all three programs, including how to become accredited, how and why to Specify the programs, and the benefits of working with accredited Contractors.

## 1400 pm - 1445 pm

### **An Introduction to the New UL Solutions Technical Evaluation Developer Program**

*Ghaith Bakir, UL Solutions*

UL Solutions has a new program, the Technical Evaluation Developer Program (TEDp) that includes requirements intended to increase the level of independent oversight for technical evaluations.

This session explores the origins and requirements of the program, as well as the benefits for Code Authorities and more.

## 1445 pm - 1530 pm

### **Fire-Rated Ducts & Penetration Seals: Is "Mix & Match" Acceptable?**

*Daniel Wysokinski, Emirates Safety Laboratory*

This presentation focuses on penetration seals around fire-rated ducts, including kitchen extract ducts. Why are these seals so important? How are they tested? And, most importantly, who is responsible for this scope of work?

## 1530 pm - 1615 pm

### **Maintaining Protection - Structural Fire-Resistance and Effective Compartmentation**

*Abhishek Chhabra, FCIA/NFCA | Bill McHugh, FCIA/NFCA*

The International Fire Code, NFPA 101, NFPA 1, and UAE Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice all require that firestopping and fireproofing protection be maintained.

This session looks at the requirements for each.



**13 FEBRUARY 2025**

**0830 am - 1130 am**

**FCIA Education for the FM & UL  
Firestop Exams**

*Bill McHugh, FCIA*

The FM & UL Firestop Exams are based on FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice (MOP), the FM & UL program guides, and systems selection and analysis. These exams are used for contractor personnel to become FM 4991 Approved Contractor and UL Qualified Contractor Program DRLs.

For Special Inspectors, passing the exam proves firestopping competency to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), required by the IBC's Chapter 17. Passing an exam is also a requirement in IAS AC 291 for the Inspector to become a Responsible Person.

The FCIA Education for the FM & UL Firestop Exam education sessions help prepare individuals and support individual preparation for these rigorous exams, further strengthening and developing firestopping knowledge.

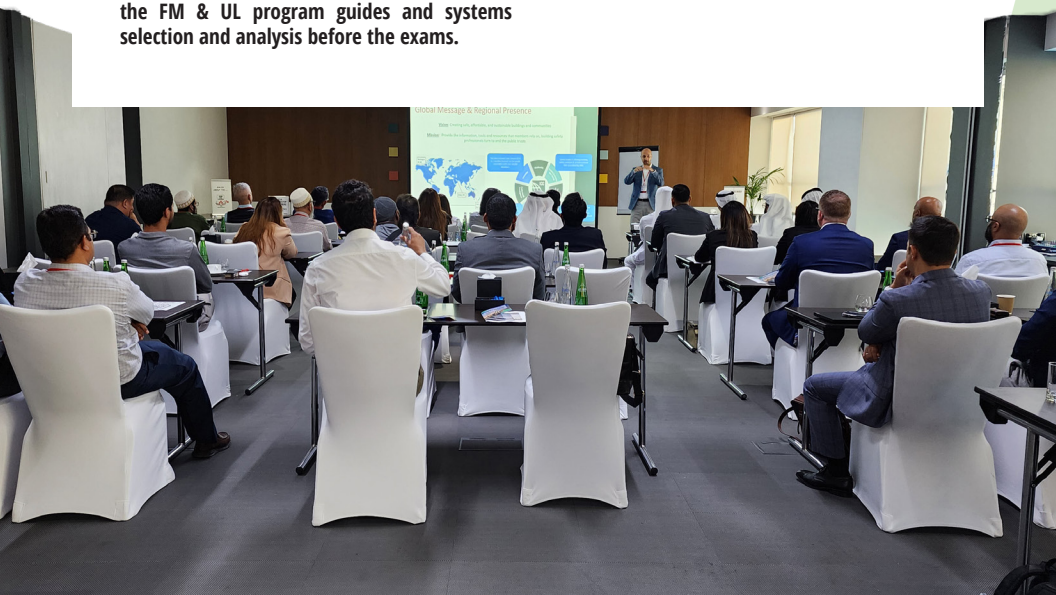
**\*This program IS NO SUBSTITUTE for reading FCIA's Firestop Manual of Practice and studying the FM & UL program guides and systems selection and analysis before the exams.**

**1130 am - 1300 pm**

**Quality Management System Manual  
Development Education**

*Bill McHugh, FCIA*

This session takes an in-depth look at the Quality Management System Manual requirements for the FM 4991 Approved, UL Qualified Firestop Contractor, and IAS AC 291 Accreditation programs. The session also provides tips and a framework for structuring and writing a comprehensive QMS Manual.





### Captain Eng. Mohamed Alahane, Head of Trade License and Civil Protection Systems Registration Section



**Mohamed Alahane** has been a driving force in fire safety and civil protection since joining the Abu Dhabi Civil Defence Authority (ADCDA) in 2018.

As the Head of the Trade License and Civil Protection Systems Registration Section, Capt. Eng. Alahane leads the registration and regulation of all fire safety systems, including the licensing of suppliers and personnel working in the life safety and fire protection field in Abu Dhabi.

He is an active member on the UAE Fire Code Committee where they contribute to shaping national fire safety regulations.

As an Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), Mohamed Alahane is committed to prioritizing life safety, ensuring that the highest fire safety practices are implemented in line with the UAE's 2031 vision of becoming the world's most secure and safe country.

Abu Dhabi Civil Defense Authority

### Ghaith Bakir, Senior Regulatory Engineer-MEA



**Ghaith Bakir** is a Senior Regulatory Engineer at UL Solutions, who provides regulatory support in the Middle East and Africa regions.

Working out of the UL Solutions office in Dubai, Ghaith provides technical expertise in regulations-, codes-, standards-, and product installations-related issues to assist regulatory authorities, consultants, manufacturers, designers, and contractors in resolving product acceptance and code compliance issues. He represents UL Solutions at AHJ and code development meetings by participating in code discussions and conducting technical presentations on code-related technical subjects, and he plans, conducts, and supervises code and regulatory related projects of major magnitude and scope.

Prior to joining UL Solutions Ghaith worked as a Project Engineer for a leading producer and supplier of fire and life safety solutions managing projects across the United Arab Emirates (UAE) involving the installation, testing, and maintenance of fire protection equipment and systems. He also worked for a Dubai Master Developer as a Fire Engineer, assisting in developing and implementing fire safety management system frameworks and evaluating compliance with national and international fire safety standards and best practices.

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## Sourav Chatterjee, Senior Risk Engineer, Risk Solutions

**Sourav Chatterjee** is an experienced and knowledgeable insurance professional with 13+ years of expertise in risk consulting and engineering, with an emphasis on loss prevention of large, complex construction, infrastructure projects, renewable energy risks, and others in the Middle East and Asian market. His experience also involves project consultation, reviewing adequacy of fire protection system design, and performing ITM of fire protection systems as part of his work.

Sourav is a Fellow of Insurance Institute of India (III) and holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Sourav has worked as a Senior Risk Consultant in various major multi-national companies in UAE and India, such as AIG, RSA, LTI, and CMSRS, where he gained a deep understanding of various local and international loss prevention standards and is well connected in the insurance market within MENA and Asian regions.

He regularly speaks as a panelist at risk management forums across the region.

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## Abhishek Chhabra, Director - Middle East & Asia

**Abhishek Chhabra** works as the Regional Director of Operations for the MENA region with the International Code Council (ICC). He joined ICC to run the Dubai office by providing essential on-the-ground support to organizations involved in building safety in the region, including various stakeholders like AHJs, consultants, manufacturers, architects, etc.

With over 15 years of experience in oil/gas, project management, and TIC industries, he leads ICC's operations and business development aspects in the MENA through existing and new partners and helping to deploy/lead/facilitate ICC's service lines for new business offerings across its family of solutions spectrum.

A distinguished speaker at conferences and workshops, Mohamed reinforces ICC's mission in building safety/innovation/sustainability, showcasing his commitment to advancing the industry's best practices and standards. His contributions underscore his dedication to fostering a safer and more resilient built environment in the MENA region.

He obtained his Masters degree in Engineering Systems Management and Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering with Minor in Applied Mathematics and Computational Methods from the American University of Sharjah.

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### Bill McHugh, Technical Director

In his 43 years in the construction industry, **Bill McHugh** has been involved in Associations to help improve the reliability of various construction features. Prior to being FCIA & NFCA Technical Director, he was Executive Director of both FCIA and NFCA. He has worked at major construction products manufacturers, a specialist firestop distributor and contractor – even provided independent inspection – prior to being involved in FCIA and NFCA.

Bill participates in Building and Fire, Energy Code Development processes. He is active at: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), various International Code Council (ICC) Codes including International Building (IBC), Fire (IFC), Existing Building (IEBC), Energy (IECC), and Property Maintenance (IPMC), the National Building & Fire Code of Canada (NBCC, NFCC), the United Arab Emirates Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice, the State of Illinois and City of Chicago, and many other country Codes.

He has served on the ICC's 'Fire Safety' Code Development Committee and serves on the Fire Protection Features Committee at NFPA.

He served as organizer and moderator for the ASHE/TJC/FCIA/UL Passive Fire Protection Barrier Management Symposiums and has presented on passive fire protection and firestopping at many conferences, effectively educating thousands.

In addition to being a published author in many magazines, he also produces *Life Safety Digest*, The Magazine of Passive Fire Protection, including effective compartmentation.

He is a past Institute Director, Chapter President, and Region President at the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and member at Construction Specifications Canada (CSC), and is a past member of the International Accreditation Services (IAS) Board of Directors.

Bill holds a BA from North Central College and MBA from Western Illinois University.

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## Sebastian Ukleja, Manager - Testing

Since **Sebastian Ukleja** started his PhD in Fire Safety Science in 2006 at Ulster University, Northern Ireland he has been always passionate about fire safety science and research.

He commenced his professional career in FireSERT, Northern Ireland in 2008 where he worked for almost 6 years and took part in three EU funded research projects (Predfire Nano, Enfiro and Aircraft Fire), initially as a Project Engineer and then as a Research Assistant and finally as a Research Associate at University of Ulster. He was involved there in numerous R&D activities, e.g.: determination of flammability of carbon fibers composites used in aircrafts, experiments with environmentally friendly alternatives to brominated fire retardants and effect of nanoparticles on flammability properties of various polymers to name a few. He was also engaged in technical supervision of experimental work of students in fire safety engineering.

In 2013 he decided to come back to his home country of Poland to take on a permanent post of a Senior Specialist in a commercial, accredited Fire Testing Laboratory where he was responsible for expanding of the accreditation scope of that laboratory and testing for maritime industry.

Later, he gained experience from BRE as a Fire Scientist and from Efectis UK/Ireland as a Project Leader. In BRE, he was responsible for various ad-hoc projects which required applications of Fire Safety Engineering. He also provided research input during early stages of BRE Fire Resilience Index. In Efectis UK/Ireland his achievement was (among other tasks) to set up a facade testing rig with toxicity evaluation of fire effluents by FTIR.

He had also a chance to work directly for Industry as a Laboratory manager for a water mist manufacturer where he gained experience with active firefighting systems and was responsible for conceptual design and construction of a new fire lab for water mist fire testing.

Currently he is working as a Testing Manager in Emirates Safety Laboratory, Dubai, where his role is to oversee fire testing activities.

His experience is both theoretical (PhD) and practical – starting with hands-on involvement in the lab as a Project Engineer, then moved on to a more analytical role as a Researcher but mainly experimentalist. An additional few years in accredited fire laboratories gave him a chance to work with commercial clients outside of Academia world.

He has published in peer-reviewed journals and presented his research during various international conferences. His PhD was focused on smoke and carbon monoxide production during underventilated enclosure fires. Later he published on various topics related to enclosure fire dynamics, material flammability, toxicity and recently co-authored two papers related to fire testing of façades.

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## Peter Van Gorp, Principal



**Peter Van Gorp** has 30 years of experience working as a fire safety engineer. He has provided consultancy, expert witness and advisory services in the Middle East, the UK, Europe and Africa.

Peter leads HKA's global Forensic Technical Services (FTS) fire engineering team. He acts as an independent expert witness on fire safety matters within various industries including Buildings, Infrastructure, Energy and Oil and Gas.

He has been instructed as an independent expert on numerous occasions, for matters in international arbitration, adjudication and litigation. Peter has given evidence for a tribunal and has been cross-examined. Recent expert witness appointments range from providing his independent expert opinion on the compliance of external wall systems on high-rise buildings within the UK to a dispute relating to the design and installation of an LPG system in a major airport in the Middle East.

Peter is highly experienced in the areas of fire, life-safety, and loss prevention and has been engaged on various types of building projects ranging across schools, hotels, hospitals, large shopping malls, multi-occupancy high-rises, and industrial developments. He has operated on projects from initial concept stages to assistance during construction.

Peter has conducted numerous fire safety system inspections, which have involved the verification of correct design, installation, operation, and maintenance. He has also been involved in fire safety system design and engineering, fire safety system construction supervision and site management, and has assisted and witnessed the testing and commissioning of fire and life safety systems.

Specific to safety and loss prevention, Peter has been involved in fire risk assessments ranging from qualitative risk assessments of refinery and chemical processes, to quantitative risk assessments of installations and handling of hazardous materials.

Peter has been an approved Risk Assessment consultant for the Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority for many years and has contributed to the UAE Fire Flammable and Combustible Liquids Chapter. Throughout his career, Peter has Chaired Hazard and Operability (HAZOP) and What-If analysis workshops.

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