



# Federation Newsletter

Spring 2020

Number 19

## EVENTS

- FSF FORUM  
6 July 2020  
Online
- 8-10 September  
2020  
FIREX at EXCEL
- 22-24 September  
2020  
Fire Safety Event  
NEC Birmingham
- Fire Safety  
Conference  
4 November 2020  
QEII London
- INTERSCHUTZ  
14 to 19 June 2021  
Hannover.

## Directors

Michael Harper – Chair  
Andrew Lynch  
Dave Russell  
Dennis Davis  
Jon O’Neil  
Niall Rowan  
Tom Roche

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## Returning to Work

Hopefully in the coming weeks a careful and cautious return to work, with its emphasis on maintaining hygiene and social distancing until the threat of spreading infection is controlled, will progress.

A press release from the Federation, offering practical advice including a guidance check list, with sections aimed at the workforce, management and reviving success, and a reminder to re-visit fire safety arrangements in the workplace, is now available on the advice page of the Federation’s website. [Coronavirus](#)

Help for those conducting fire drills during the pandemic has also been provided on the Federation’s Advice page [FireDrills](#)

## Forum 6 July and Subscriptions 2020

At this year’s virtual AGM the Board recommendation that Member subscriptions be reduced, to offer assistance in what are for many extremely difficult economic circumstances, was supported. The new rates are: for Ordinary Member £525 and Associate Member £215. In addition invoicing will not commence until 1 August 2020. A Forum Meeting will be held online on the 6 July 2020.

## Fire Sector Competency

Working with others in the construction industry and government the Competency Steering Group is close to publishing its final report. The interim report was published last year and widely consulted upon. CSG has also recently been updated by MHCLG on the likely thrust of government policy related to competency.

As part of their preparations for the 2nd reading of the Building Safety Bill MHCLG last month released at short notice an industry competency questionnaire to be used to inform the Bill’s Impact Assessment. An FSF response was made for fire risk assessors.

A Built Environment Competence Standards Steering Group (BECS) has been created by BSI to develop new duty holders and industry competency framework standards in support of the new building safety regime. The Federation was invited to join BECS and at the inaugural meeting on 21 May issues like the scope of work and an overview, of what will be a fast-tracked 2 year programme, were all outlined with reference to the 3 PAS envisaged for the Principle

Designer Principle, Engineer and Building Safety Manager and the Overarching Competence Framework Standard. [FSF Competency](#)

Home Office continue to press on with the Fire Safety Bill after its 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and the Federation has been assisting in discussions on achieving capacity in competent fire risk assessors to meet a demand that may affect 1.7 million buildings

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## NFCC Standards Board

The Fire Standards Board, an independent board that is supported by NFCC infrastructure, responsible for building performance metrics for the fire and rescue service. Recently FSB published an interesting newsletter that outlines how it will work, the process for developing and deciding what a standard needs to contain, as well as identifying the range and initial group of published Fire Standards. [NFCCStandards](#)

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## Confidential Reporting of Fire Safety

Members may recall the structural safety scheme (CROSS) that MHCLG wanted to extend to fire safety on HRRBs. This has now advanced to develop proposals for fire safety. [CROFS](#)

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## Fire Education

A new not-for-profit online platform aptly named FRED (Fire Related Educational Development) has been launched that offers users educational talks, as its name suggests, on the subject of fire. FRED has been accredited for Continuing Professional Development by Federation member the Institution of Fire Engineers. The first series of talks currently offers several informative sessions covering a broad range of content drawn from industry and academia. There is a 15% discount on the £25 cost if the code FSFMEMBER2020 is used when accessing FRED at the link [www.fredtalklive.com](http://www.fredtalklive.com).

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## BSI Update

At the end of April BSI published the Code of Practice 9992:2020 Fire safety in the design, management and use of rail infrastructure. Rail 9992. [BSIRail](#)

Also recently opened for public comment until 17 June 2020 are the two risk assessment Codes of Practice: PAS 79-1 Fire risk assessment. Part 1: Premises other than housing and PAS 79-2 Fire risk assessment. Part 2: Housing. PAS 79-1 PAS 79-2 [BSI](#)

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## JOIFF Quarterly

The next quarterly edition of Catalyst the International Organisation for Industrial Emergency Services Management publication is available. [Catalyst](#)