



UK-AFI

UNITED KINGDOM
ASSOCIATION OF
FIRE INVESTIGATORS®

Summer Training Conference

Fire Scene Contamination & Health Issues



Conference Programme

Monday 30th June 2025

Leonardo Royal Southampton Grand Harbour Hotel



Speaker Lineup

08:15 Registration and coffee.

08:45 Conference introduction and housekeeping – Richard Hagger

08:50 Opening Address – Neil Odin, CFO Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service

09:00 Prof Anna Stec

Fire Contaminants: Risks, Exposure & Prevention Strategies.

10:00 John Lord

Fire Investigation and Contaminants: The Wider View.

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Chris Clarke

My Cancer Journey.

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Dave Coss

“Can’t do that” Data protection.

14:45 Steve “Robbie” Burns

Our journey with Fire Contaminants.

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 James Acott

Case study *"Thinking outside the box—because the box was never an option".*

17:00 Wrap up and conference close – Richard Hagger



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Conference Speakers

Prof. Anna Stec



Anna Stec is Professor of Fire Chemistry and Toxicity at the University of Central Lancashire. Anna has undertaken research into fires and fire effluents, including quantification of toxic hazards from fires, and understanding the factors that affect the short- and long-term toxicity of fire smoke and residues. Anna co-edited the major reference book in this area, "Fire Toxicity" and has around 100 peer-reviewed publications on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), fire chemistry and toxicity and firefighters' health. Currently, Anna is also leading a research project, co-funded by the Fire Brigades Union, to identify the causes and rates of cancers amongst UK firefighters.

John Lord



John Lord worked for Lancashire Fire & Rescue for 32 years. John qualified as a Gold Command Support trainer, hazardous material environmental protection officer. John holds a level 5 diploma in Leadership and Management. John retired in 2011 and started his own company SimTrainer UK. John has been delivering high quality incident management training and provides support to emergency responders in developing interactive training using Fire Studio simulation software. SimTrainer is the leading provider of Fire Studio training and consultancy, in its design, application and it's use.

Chris Clarke



Chris is a partner with Fire Investigations (UK) LLP. In a previous life Chris was a Station Manager in the West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and managed their dedicated Fire Investigation Team and chaired the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Fire Investigation Group. Chris has been a member of the IAAI-UK since 2003, its inaugural year and has sat on a number of national working groups including the IFE special interest group, Skills for Justice FI Qualifications group and CFOA FI Steering Group. Chris joined the UK-AFI Board of Directors in January 2012 with roles on the training committee and website team.

Chris was elected to the IAAI International Board of Directors at the ITC in Orlando 2013 and was re-elected for a second term in 2016. As a member of the international board, he chaired the Website Content Committee.

Dave Coss



Dave joined Derbyshire fire and rescue service in 1992. In 2000 he moved into fire protection where he became involved in fire investigation, and being a mountain rescue dog handler, developed an interest in fire investigation dogs. In 2002 he set up the first regionally funded fire investigation dog unit covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire attending around 200 incidents a year. Over the next 20 years he has worked 4 different fire dogs working on numerous high-profile arson and murder cases, attended Crown and coroner's courts, gained a BSc (hons) in forensic science, an MSc in fire investigation and in 2018 he was awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal for services to fire investigation. Retiring in 2022 Dave has returned to the role part time and continues to attend incidents as well as developing new techniques in recovery of ignitable liquids alongside the University of Derby.

Steve 'Robbie' Burns



Steve "Robbie" Burns is a Watch Manager in Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service. Steve is the Operational Assets Fire Contaminants lead and SME for the service who have created a unique, dedicated role for contaminants. Steve is a member of the UK-AFI and is a Graduate member of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

James Acott



According to an AI-generated response ... **'James Acott, works with Fire Investigations UK. He has over 20 years' experience investigating fires in homes, vehicles, industrial sites, and renewable energy systems working across the UK and Europe. He is known for his clear, practical approach.'**

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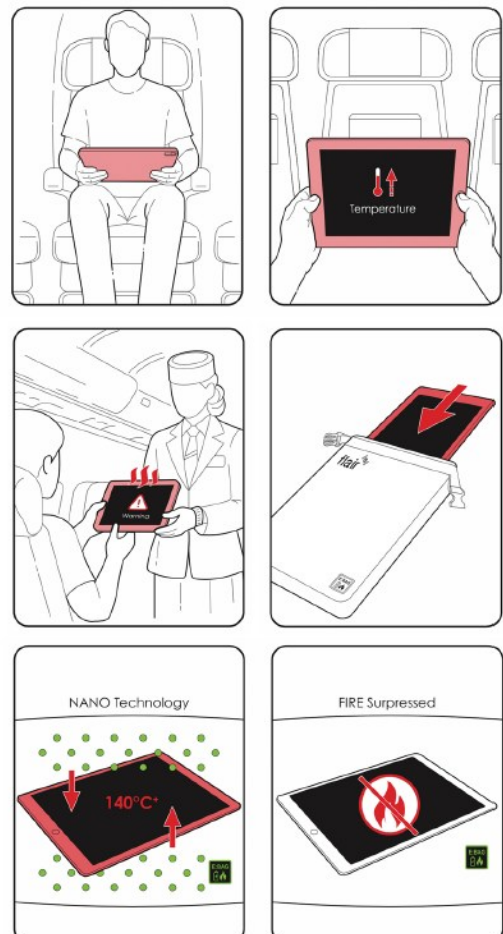
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Thank you for attending our Summer Training Conference in Southampton, we value your comments and would be grateful if you can spend a couple of minutes completing this short feedback survey.





Save the date!

Annual Training Conference 2026

The Milner Hotel, York

Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th January 2026