

# FIRE TALK



The Independent Fire Engineering and Distributors Association

Summer 2017

## Latest news

### Welcome to the latest edition of FireTalk

April saw IFEDA run another of its networking and fire information days: all agreed that it was an excellent event, with interesting and informative talks from Gary McDowall of ABC MacIntosh; Ian Musgrave, Detector Testers; and Antony Everington & Ken Symmonds of PC Data Services.

Ian Musgrave at IFEDA North, explaining how the relevant regulations impinge upon No Climb Products (Detector Testers) and the testing of detectors.



As the year races by the AGM and national conference forms have been going out, and information can be found opposite about this year's event. Do make a note of the date: **Saturday 14th October**. From all at IFEDA we hope you have a good and restful summer holiday.

Until the next time.  
**Graham**

## The IFEDA AGM & National Conference 2017

**Diary date: Saturday 14th October**

**OCT 14** Following last year's highly successful and sold out AGM & National Conference we will be returning to the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel & Country Club near Birmingham. At this early stage and following a very interesting and informative talk at IFEDA North about issues relating to AFFF; we have Gary McDowall of ABC MacIntosh to update us on the effects and implications of BS5306-9. Bob Bantock, of the National Trust, will deliver a talk on fire investigations related to National Trust properties. IFEDA's working group reps will be in attendance and with (fingers crossed) a new issue of BS5306-3 as well as updates to part 8, and the new BAFF SP101 scheme, there will be lots to discuss.

Saturday night entertainment will take the form of a Hollywood themed casino night, in addition to the ever popular disco.

The weekend is a great networking opportunity with the chance to catch-up with all the latest industry news and meet with fellow members and business owners from around the country; either in the meetings, at lunch, or enjoying the excellent facilities. Once again there is a spa, gym, beauty treatments, golf and swimming pool for you and your partners; so why not make a weekend of it? The AGM, conference talks, and buffet lunch is a free event for members. So, if you are just coming for the day or have the chance to stay over, we would be delighted to see you. For online readers please [click here](#) for hotel information.

## IFEDA listening to members

### Fire extinguisher water analysis provides crystal clear results



Having listened to concerns raised by IFEDA members regarding the quality of the liquid in water fire extinguishers, and the lack

of any evidence supporting how safe, or otherwise, the water is, IFEDA commissioned an independent investigation. This was undertaken by Feedwater, the independent water treatment specialists.

IFEDA (as a mystery shopper) purchased a number of extinguishers currently distributed within the UK, representing a cross-section of the market, from premium to budget water fire extinguishers.

The water was removed under controlled conditions and Feedwater proceeded to test each individual sample for a variety of identifiable organic compounds, including legionella, in addition to any pesticides or herbicides listed as being an environmental concern in the UK.

IFEDA are delighted to report that the results of this research and testing has provided data and results which clearly demonstrates that no problems exist with the water within these types of fire extinguishers. Some slightly elevated levels of lead were found in two samples; however, all were well inside any accepted safety levels, and organic compounds in the samples were very little; with none present at all in one sample.

The full press release can be found on the IFEDA website under 'Latest News'.

**IFEDA: Offering guidance, support and training**

[www.ifeda.org](http://www.ifeda.org)

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## Courses 2017

**Fire Alarm Design**  
11th Oct Manchester

**Fire Alarm Installation & Commissioning**  
13th Oct Manchester

**Fire Alarm Maintenance**  
28th June Southampton  
12th Oct Manchester

### Southampton courses

**3 day full extinguisher**  
14th - 16th Nov  
**1 day refresher**  
13th Nov

### Buckingham courses

**3 day full extinguisher**  
19th - 21st Sept  
**1 day refresher**  
18th Sept

### Chester courses

**3 day full extinguisher**  
8th - 10th Aug  
17th - 19th Oct  
12th - 14th Dec  
**1 day refresher**  
7th Aug • 16th Oct • 11th Dec  
**Fire Hose Reel**  
24th Oct

### Caerphilly courses

**3 day full extinguisher**  
21st - 23rd Nov  
**1 day refresher**  
20th Nov

### Grantham (new venue)

**3 day full extinguisher**  
2nd - 4th Oct

### Glasgow

**1 day extinguisher refresher**  
24th Oct

To book any of the courses a booking form can be found on the IFEDA website or please email: [info@ifeda.org](mailto:info@ifeda.org).

Course details, and syllabuses, can be found on the website.



## Fire Safety Order: Latest court case

### Property manager's £10,000 bill for fire safety breaches

A property manager who risked the lives of vulnerable tenants faces a court bill of more than £10,000 for fire safety breaches. Charles Thornton manages 26 rented houses in and around York including a property where the fire alarm had no battery or fuses, had not been properly maintained, and didn't work.

The court heard that Thornton had also not assessed the fire risk to tenants in the house's two flats.

Tenants told fire officers the fire alarm had never worked since they moved in, nearly four months earlier.

"The fire extinguishers at a rented property off Fishergate had not been serviced or checked for 13 years," reported Karen Galloway, prosecuting for North Yorkshire Fire Authority. Thornton had told officers fire engineers charged too much money. Miss Galloway went on to state that "there is a financial motivation there for Mr Thornton and he had a very lackadaisical attitude to fire safety."

"Mr Thornton houses vulnerable tenants, these offences were easily avoidable and he places tenants at risk of death or serious injury." Miss Galloway said fire officers uncovered the lack of fire safety precautions after a 999 call to one of the houses last September.

Tenants had smelt smoke in its hallway caused by two smouldering electric wires. There was no fire and firefighters made the house safe.

Thornton, of Knedlington Walk, Howden, pleaded guilty to three fire safety breaches in relation to the first property. He was fined £7,000, plus £2,933 prosecution costs and a £170 statutory surcharge.

## Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies, who, since the last edition of FireTalk, have been granted full membership of IFEDA:

- **No Climb Products Ltd**  
Welham Green, Hertfordshire
- **Interserve Construction Ltd**, West Midlands
- **Balfour Beatty**, Derby
- **Leighton Hughes Fire Extinguishers**, Swansea
- **SFS Fire Engineering Ltd**, Slough
- **Boden Fire & Security Ltd**, North Tawton, Devon
- **West Devon Fire Protection**, Devon
- **DHG Ltd**, West Sussex
- **Star Fire Protection**, Torquay
- **Leader Systems LLP**, Rugby
- **Kingswood Fire and Security Ltd**, Bristol
- **Fireshield Fire Protection Ltd**, Radstock, Somerset
- **Triple A Fire & Electrical Ltd**, Bournemouth
- **Eurofire Systems Ltd**, Antrim NI.

We wish them all a long and fruitful association with IFEDA.

Details of the services offered by all our members can be found on the IFEDA website [www.ifeda.org/members](http://www.ifeda.org/members).



## Member services

### IFEDA Fire Safety Log Books

It is a legal requirement for the responsible person to make regular checks of their fire equipment, and document these checks in a fire safety log book.

The comprehensive IFEDA fire log book is available to members at just £3.50 + vat per copy. Simply contact the office to order.