

## Nicola Reynolds CFP(AEU) Dip EngTech TIFireE

## CASE STUDY

**Education and qualifications:** NEBOSH Fire Risk Management; NEBOSH General Certificate; European Diploma in Fire Safety  
**Which institution are you a member of?** Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE)

**Grade of membership:** Technician Grade

**Job title:** Fire Safety Inspecting Officer

**Employer:** East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

**Length in current job:** 6.5 years

### What made you choose this career path?

My career and interest in fire safety began 10 years ago when I was appointed as a Fire Safety Trainer and eventually Deputy Fire Advisor for a NHS trust. I worked alongside the Trust Fire Advisor, who was an ex fire service officer. This role covered two acute hospitals and several other smaller premises and I learned more about passive and preventative fire safety measures in premises. I then joined the Fire Service when the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order was still in its 'early days'.

### What do you most enjoy about your job?

Although my main role is as an enforcement officer, I enjoy working with businesses and organisations to assist them in understanding their responsibilities and achieving safer premises.

### What is the greatest challenge you face in your job?

The greatest challenge I face in my job is to ensure the provision of a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment. This is often a difficult area to address as the understanding is often just not there. For instance, a responsible person may have paid for the services of a 'fire risk assessor' but the assessment is far from 'suitable and sufficient' for the particular premises. Therefore, it is very rewarding when I see one that is deemed to be suitable and sufficient.

### Please describe a typical working day:

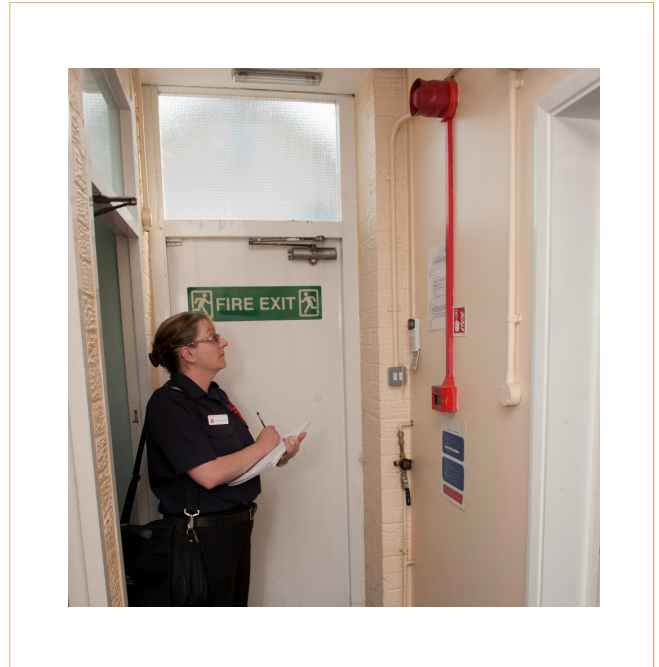
I spend a lot of my time undertaking routine audits of premises that have been affected by fire; this is followed by consultations with Building Control, Licencing and Housing Officers.

### What is your greatest professional achievement to date?

My greatest achievement would have to be achieving the European Diploma in Fire Safety.

### What attracted you to gain professional registration as an EngTech?

I sought professional registration as a way to demonstrate a level of competency, credibility and recognition. This is exactly what Engineering Technician status through the IFE offered.



### How has gaining EngTech helped with your career?

It has increased my confidence and has encouraged me to continue further with professional development.

### What advice would you give someone considering professional registration as an EngTech?

You should go for it. It is worth it!

### How does your employer benefit from you being professionally registered as an EngTech?

Professional registration as an EngTech has demonstrated to my employer that I have been assessed to and achieved a recognised standard. It also provides confidence to Businesses and those I communicate with on a day to day basis.

### Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

It is hard to say, however I intend to continue with my professional development and qualifications in the field of fire safety and fire engineering as there is still a lot for me to learn.

### What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I like to travel as much as possible, as well as doing all the usual things that most people enjoy, such as cinema, theatre, concerts, eating out, reading, walking and relaxing.

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