



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS
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Case Study

Alan Hudson FdSc EngTech MIFireE

Year of gaining membership/registration with the IFE: MIFireE in 2000 EngTech registration in 2014

Current Job Title: Watch Manager - Fire Investigation

Employer: Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

What made you choose this career path?

I have been lucky to have served both operationally and in specialist posts that include being a breathing apparatus instructor at the Training and Development Centre and a fire protection officer. As a fire investigation officer I now have operated in aspects of the job which has helped me to become a more rounded officer.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

It's really important that I am able to establish the cause and origin of a fire. This is especially so following a fatal incident where relatives need to understand how a loved one has lost their life.

What is the greatest challenge you face in your job? One of the greatest challenges I face in my job

is to be challenged in court by barristers and solicitors. As an expert witness you have to be prepared to have your knowledge, skills and understanding tested.



Please describe a typical working day

No two days are ever the same, from the moment I book on duty I can be asked to respond to a great variety of incidents including fatal and near fatal incidents. The day can be made up of writing MG 11 statements, producing plan drawings, attending Coroners Inquests, or attending criminal and civil court. I also provide support and advice to operational crews and officers.

What is your greatest achievement to date?

As a result of the methodical approach to my work, I have been able to secure a number of convictions. This has given me a lot of satisfaction, knowing that my contribution has made the community a safer place.

What attracted you to gaining professional registration as an EngTech? As a person that gives

an opinion in court the judge deems me to be an expert witness. It is a great confidence boost to be able to state that I am a registered engineer with the Engineering Council. This recognition puts me on a level playing field with my peers.



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What advice would you give someone considering professional registration as an EngTech? There are many benefits to be gained

such as being recognised as a professional with experience, skills and competence. Your status with colleagues, present and future employers is greatly enhanced with the use of the title.

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

My employer benefits from the learning and networking opportunities that have opened up for me. With the campaign now underway to create 100,000 new Engineering Technicians by 2020, this will increase opportunities to share knowledge and resources.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

I am due to retire from the Fire and Rescue Service in 2016, and so I look forward to an exciting journey ahead with the knowledge that I will be recognised by industry as a professional registered engineer.