



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS  
FOUNDED 1918 • INCORPORATED 1924



# Case Study

Michael Clifford BEng (Hons) MSc  
CEng FIFireE CPEng CMEngNZ FCABE

**Year joined the IFE:** IFE Membership 1996, Engineering Council Registration as IEng 2012 and as CEng 2016.

**Qualifications:** IFE Graduate & Member Exams.  
MSc in Fire Safety Engineering, University of Central Lancashire. BEng (Hons) in Fire Engineering, University of Central Lancashire.

**Current Job Title:** Senior Fire Engineer

**Company:** Norman Disney and Young

**Location:** Auckland, New Zealand

## **Please describe your current role:**

I am a Senior Fire Engineer based in the company's office in Auckland, New Zealand. My role includes providing current and new clients with fire engineering design reports for building consent purposes. This consists of Building Act and Regulatory compliance; specialist advice on areas such as passive fire protection systems; complex fire modelling; fire protection system specification; fire safety strategy and review; independent peer review; fire engineering cost-benefit analysis and fire safety risk assessments, among other services.

## **Please provide a brief outline of your career:**

I commenced my career as a firefighter in the Naval Air Command Fire Service, progressing to a level equivalent to an Assistant Divisional Officer in the Military Fire & Rescue Service, prior to moving into Consultancy. Now specialising in Fire Consultancy and Training, I have over thirty years of experience as a fire professional. During this time I have carried out a wide range of fire safety related work including fire engineering, fire risk assessments, fire precautions compliance advice, fire safety strategy construction, fire audits and fire safety training.

## **Have you worked on any unusual or high profile projects?**

Over the years I have carried out fire safety works on a number of high-profile buildings including the Olympic Park and other temporary stadia for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



This involved completing detailed fire risk assessments on the venues initially on plan to provide advice on design and other requirements and then once completed, fire risk assessments for game days. Other projects include high-rise buildings with complex features such as single-stair escape routes and large atriums. I have also work on industrial, commercial and residential projects for both the private and public sector.

## **What attracted you to gain IFE membership and become professionally registered?**

I applied for membership, gaining my Graduate and Member levels by sitting the relevant exams to further my knowledge base within the fire engineering discipline. I chose to register as an Incorporated Engineer with the Engineering Council, but my long-term goal was to become a Chartered Engineer.

The process allowed me to demonstrate my continuation of academic learning, combined with drawing on actual situations within my working life, which together contributed to my development into a fully rounded fire engineer. Chartered status also provides assurance to my peers and clients that I not only conduct myself in a professional and ethical manner, but also that I have been independently assessed as meeting an internationally recognised standard of competence.



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS  
FOUNDED 1918 • INCORPORATED 1924



# Case Study

Michael Clifford BEng (Hons) MSc  
CEng FIFireE CPEng CMEngNZ FCABE



*Michael Clifford (right) receiving BAFE SP205 certification from Geoff Rendall of the SSAIB*

## How has IFE membership and professional registration benefitted your career?

I have found that colleagues and peers have recognised my commitment to Fire Engineering.

In particular, having the letters CEng after my name demonstrates to colleagues, peers, clients and external organisations that I have undertaken an independent assessment of my competence and that I am committed to my profession.

## How does your employer benefit from you being professionally registered as a CEng?

Being professionally registered gives confidence to clients, both old and new, that I am competent to complete my role as a Senior Fire Engineer.

In addition, it demonstrates that the company supports career development and professional recognition for its staff.

## Outside work, is there any activity you enjoy doing in your spare time that relates to engineering?

I am currently involved with the IFE New Zealand Branch as the registrants' coordinator. This allows me to interact with members to provide advice on professional registration.

Additionally, we have been instrumental in the instigation and development of the course programme for the new New Zealand Diploma of Engineering in Fire Engineering. This is the first step to providing a career pathway for young people leaving education to progress into fire engineering.

## What are your future goals?

To remain in the industry and provide a first-class service to my clients while maintaining my competence through Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Also, assisting my colleagues with their own development goals.

## Do you have any advice for potential members?

It is well worth the effort of completing the IFE application form as it is valued within the industry. The process of registration was seamless from start to finish. The IFE membership and registration team were very helpful and ensured that I was kept informed at every step of the process.