

# Volunteer Spotlight

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THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS

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## Tell us about yourself.

I am a Chartered Fire Engineer. I have an MSc in Fire Explosion and Investigation and a BSc (Hons) in Fire Safety and Fire Engineering. I am a Fellow of the IFE and a member of the UK Association of Fire Investigators.

## Tell us about your volunteer roles.

I am a senior examiner for the IFE exams and chair of the Special Interest Group for Industrial Fire and Risk. As chair of the SIG, I have weekly phone calls with group members where we discuss how we can make a difference and what educational topics we should develop next for the benefit of our industry.

## Can you explain the purpose of your SIG and what the group does?

The Industrial Fire and Risk SIG was developed by Frank Mendham and in those days the group constitution supported high hazard risk. The group looked at how those topics could be explored to aid better understanding and mitigation. Since taking over as Chair in 2017, the group has expanded in members and updated its constitution to now include those industries, previously not considered, that present a significant level of risk to health, safety and the environment, such as waste recycling facilities.

## Has there been any work come out of the SIG that you are particularly proud of?

From 2016 – 2017 the group worked hard to develop 'The Nuclear Industry Fire Safety Colloquium'. The event attracted a broad international audience which we were really proud of. We have also recently teamed up with Mark Andrews, Assistant Chief Fire Officer for East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. Mark has always been a big supporter of our work and we welcomed his initiative to combine efforts in understanding industrial fires that use significant resources to control and are damaging to health and the environment.

## What plans does the SIG have for the future?

We plan to hold more conferences, increase our responsibility for our sector and to grow the group in numbers.

## What would you say to members who are thinking about joining a SIG?

Find the topical SIG which fits your needs best and join. You don't need to be limited to one, you can join many. The more involved you are, the more informed you are and the more you can help make a difference.

## What made you want to volunteer with the IFE?

The IFE core values are so integral to anyone within our sector. I cannot say that enough and for me, that is reason enough to support and give something back to an industry that has many passionate people making a difference to reduce risk to life.

## What does volunteering mean to you?

It's an opportunity to give back to an industry that, in its core values, has life safety at the heart of it.

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