

# HOT

# High Rise Operational Tactics

Thought  
leadership  
event



21-22  
October  
2022

sponsored by

**ELKHART  
BRASS** 

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## High Rise Operational Tactics

**Following the Grenfell Tower fire, UK fire and rescue services have been working ensure they have clear and established operational tactics for firefighting in tall buildings.**

**Whilst the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London 2017 was an extreme example, FRSs attended 726 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats and maisonettes in a 12-month period to March 2021.**

(Source: FIRE0205)

This thought leadership event has been designed to look at international examples of tall building fires, the approaches taken and compare the different outcomes achieved.

The event will have a practical, hands-on focus designed to support the fire and rescue service to consider the range of different operational tactics that could be deployed.

With representatives from the US, Spain and across the UK coming together for this event, it will generate conversations to help determine and steer best practice for these challenging incidents.

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## Event summary

### Friday

- Hear about different tactics deployed in High Rise Firefighting in US and Spain
- Explore a range of case studies of tall building firefighting experiences and the lessons learnt
- Flows and characteristics of various branch/nozzle types
- UL water mapping study outcomes
- Stairwell protection and decision making
- Tactical deployment

### Saturday

- The day will kick off with a short round-table discussion on High Rise Firefighting tactics with an opportunity to get your questions answered by the expert panel
- Then it will be out on the training ground to experience practical hands-on training sessions. These sessions will focus on:
  - > Larger diameter hose management techniques
  - > Smoothbore branch/nozzle techniques
  - > Riser outlet operations and considerations – PRV's etc
  - > Know your flow
  - > Water Mapping assessing effectiveness of both straight and fog streams
- The conference will conclude with a formal dinner on Saturday evening.

### Location:

Fire Service  
College,  
Moreton-in-Marsh

### Sunday

- Leave site



## Our speakers

### **STEVE BIRCH**

**Manchester, England, UK**

Steve joined Greater Manchester Fire Brigade UK 1978 31years full time service, various ranks and roles including training school instructor, Joined Akron Brass with a role of implementing European fire equipment that meet standards and European tactical firefighting methods. Worked for Safe Fleet (Elkhart Brass) for the last 3 years identifying European market needs, lecture at various training establishments on Flow analysis, technical and tactical considerations when establishing flow rate requirements, understanding high-rise pressure loss and the importance of pressure ratings.



### **JERRY HERBST**

**Greenwich, New York**

Jerry is a 40+ year veteran of the Fire Service and is a New York State certified Training Officer. With over 25 years on the line Jerry has served in all rank positions including 6 years as Chief of Department in his local volunteer FD and ten years as a paid Deputy Chief Coordinator at the County Level. He is still an active Firefighter and Apparatus Operator.



He has been with Elkhart Brass since 2006 serving as a Regional Manager, National Account Manager and Strategic Development Manager for Municipal Markets. Currently the Head of Training and Product Specialist for Elkhart Brass, his primary area of responsibility is the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic corridor. He also travels throughout the U.S. in support of Elkhart's field force and National account partners providing subject matter expertise on the evaluation, development and implementation of equipment solutions for effective fire attack packages.

He is responsible for relationships with national level fire service instructors and training company's across the U.S. and facilitates their interaction with Elkhart Brass.

Jerry has been published and referenced in Industry leading media and is active in instruction and support at many of the nation's leading Hands on Training events.



## Our speakers

### **RAY McCORMACK** **FDNY**

Ray McCormack is a Lieutenant and thirty seven nine year veteran of the FDNY, Fire Department of New York. He is a panel member for both the UL Fire Stream Attack Study and Coordinated Fire Attack Study. He delivered the Keynote “True Values of a Firefighter” at FDIC in 2009. He was the co-creator of Urban Firefighter Magazine. He lectures on tactics, leadership and culture in the American Fire Service.



### **DAVE McGRAIL** **Denver, Colorado**

Dave McGrail is a 36-year veteran of the fire service and an Assistant Chief with the Denver Fire Department. He instructs internationally on a wide range of fire service topics, specializing in high-rise firefighting operations.



He is the author of the book *Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings* published by PennWell (Fire Engineering Books and Videos) in 2007. Dave holds two Associate of Applied Science Degrees in Fire Science Technology, one with a focus in Fire Suppression, and the other with a focus in Fire Prevention. Dave also holds two Bachelor of Science Degrees, one in Human Resource Management, and the other in Fire Service Administration.

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## Our speakers

### **DAVE PAYTON**

**(Ret) West Midlands Fire Service, England, UK /  
UK Fire Service College**

Dave Payton GFireE, Eng.Tech joined West Midlands Fire Service in 1992 and spent 15 years as a firefighter at one of Birmingham's busiest stations. He started delivering training to recruits before moving over to the BA department, working there until 2019.

Having established himself as an leading expert in fire behaviour, tactical ventilation and thermal imaging, he moved to being a Seconded Officer at the Fire Service College. Here he shares his knowledge, understanding and passion to developing instructors to ensure the area of Fire Behaviour continues to evolve.

Over his career Dave has undertaken hundreds of live burns, some in acquired structures including a 13-storey high rise. He has studied and learnt through experience, trial and error and a willingness to understand over a 30-year period.

As part of his contribution to ensuring the UK Fire Service has skilled firefighters and instructors he has designed and had built a 6 storey training rig that allows training on wind driven fires, pressurised staircases, protected lobbies etc in as realistic a manner.



### **ERIC TOLLUND**

**Denver, Colorado**

Eric R. Tollund is a 25 year veteran of the fire service. He began as a volunteer in Durango, Colorado and now serves with the Denver Fire Department as Captain of Engine Co. 23 He has a passion for engine company operations, specifically fires in high rise and standpipe buildings and has instructed nationally on this subject.



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## Our speakers

### **KEITH STAKES**

#### **Research Engineer, UL's FSRI**

Keith is a Research Engineer with UL's Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). He is a Fire Protection Engineer, has expertise in the study of fire service tactics, firefighter safety, and fire ground operations. Keith holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Masters of Engineering Degree in Fire Protection Engineering from the University of Maryland. He currently serves with the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in Bethesda, Maryland where he holds the rank of Fire/Rescue Battalion Chief. Keith also serves on the NFPA Technical Committee for Fire Service Training and the Editorial Advisory Board for FireRescue1 and Fire Chief.



### **PHIL BAILEY**

#### **Kent Fire and Rescue Service**

Phil has served as an operational firefighter in Kent Fire and Rescue Service for over 28 years, and is currently an advanced incident commander with responsibility for operational capability development. He has developed operational policies and procedures, firefighting tactics and tall building firefighting policies and procedures within the service, regionally and nationally. He currently sits on the National Fire Chiefs Council Fires in Tall Buildings Working Group and has contributed to the development of National Operational Guidance. He is a practicing Fire Scene Investigator and assisted in the development of the fire investigation fire standard.



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## Our speakers

### **JOHN CHUBB** **Dublin Fire Brigade, Ireland**

John joined the Dublin Fire Brigade in 1986 and is currently a District Officer in Brigade Headquarters Townsend St in Dublin, Ireland. John has served at all levels in Dublin's busiest fire stations in his 36-year career.



John has extensive experience in firefighter training and specialises in Tall and Complex Building Firefighting, Breathing Apparatus, Compartment Fire Behaviour and Tactical Ventilation/ PPV. John has presented at Olstyn Fire Conference Poland 2019, Fire Engineers Ireland 2019, IFIW Frankfurt 2013 and the Fire Department Instructors Conference in USA in 2011. Underwriter Laboratories selected John in 2017 to serve on a Firefighting Tactics technical panel in the United States. John currently manages DFB Operational Intelligence Unit and is the project lead for their High-Rise Firefighting Program.

### **PABLO J. BOJ GARCÍA** **Málaga, Spain**

Pablo has been a firefighter in the Málaga (Spain) Fire Department since 2002 and team leader since 2008. He has a university degree in criminology and a master's degree in occupational risk prevention. His work has been focused on fire investigation and, in recent years, on fire ground tactics, in which he trains and lectures. He has written numerous articles (Fire Engineering, Fire Technology, International Firefighter and others) and is the co-author of Fundamentos Teóricos para Bomberos.



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## Detailed agenda - Friday

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributor / Speaker</b>
<b>09:00</b>	Arrival & Tea / Coffee	
<b>09:45</b> 30 mins	Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Purpose of conference</li><li>• What to expect over next two days?</li><li>• Housekeeping</li></ul>	Steve Birch Dave Payton
<b>10:15</b> 60 mins	Evolution and challenge in high rise operations in Spain	Pablo Boj
<b>11:20</b> 60 mins	High Rise Firefighting USA	Eric Tollund - Denver FD Dave McGrail – Denver FD
<b>12:20</b> 60 mins	LUNCH	
<b>13:20</b> 60 mins	Development of evidence-based tactics.	John Chubb - Dublin FRS
<b>14:25</b> 60 mins	Branch/nozzle characteristics Pressure & flow	Jerry Herbst – Elkhart Brass US Steve Birch – Elkhart Brass Europe
<b>15:25</b> 10 mins	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	
<b>15:35</b> 60mins	The deployment of stairwell protection teams in tall building fires in Kent Fire and Rescue Service and how the R.I.C.E. command decision making tool can assist tactical decision making.	Phil Bailey – Kent FRS
<b>16:40</b> 60 mins	UL Water Mapping research Stream effectiveness	Keith Stakes – UL Ray McCormack – FDNY (Ret)
<b>17:40</b>	Closing remarks Arrangements for Saturday (location /kit)	Dave Payton
<b>17:45</b>	Practical Session sign-up Room Check-in	



## Detailed agenda - Saturday

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contributor / Speaker</b>
<b>08:30</b>	Brief Welcome Back: Reminder of day plan Location: Lecture Theatre	Dave Payton
<b>09:00</b> 60 mins	Roundtable Q&A Session	Speakers Facilitator – Dave Payton
<b>10:00</b>	TEA / COFFEE BREAK Location: BA School - Kit-Up for Incident Ground	
<b>10:45</b> 1hr 00m for Indy A 30min others 10 min swap time	Session 1: 1 hour session Hose management techniques.	30 mins Riser Operations & considerations Know your flow Smoothbore -handling techniques Water Mapping
<b>11:55</b>	Session 2: 1 hour session Hose management techniques.	30 mins Riser Operations & considerations Know your flow Smoothbore -handling techniques Water Mapping
<b>12:55</b>	LUNCH	
<b>13:40</b> 45min session + 10min swap time	Session 3: 1 hour session Hose management techniques.	30 mins Riser Operations & considerations Know your flow Smoothbore -handling techniques Water Mapping
<b>14:50</b>	Session 4: 1 hour session Hose management techniques.	30 mins Riser Operations & considerations Know your flow Smoothbore -handling techniques Water Mapping
<b>15:50</b>	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	
<b>16:20</b>	Closing Session / Reflections / Evolution of view exercise	
<b>17:00</b>	Close	





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