

FIRE SAFETY PLATFORM

FISUEL International Forum – 22 October 2014

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Mike Hagen



- 33 Years Fire Service Experience
- Firefighter to Deputy Fire Chief
- Led Change in the Fire & Rescue Service to do both Prevention and Emergency Response
- Spoken internationally about ways of making citizens safer from Fire
- Now MD of Fire Safety Platform



[Classrooms in the Clouds](#)



Overview of presentation

• What is it?

- Risk-Led, Non-profit Association, Registered Office in Brussels
- Financial Supporters – Albermarle, Busworld, Chemtura, the European Flame Retardants Association (EFRA), ICL Industrial Products and Sprue Safety Products
- Fire discriminates; it targets the old and the poor
- Fire Safety Platform aim to improve conditions in 4 main ways:
 - Raise awareness of fire deaths and injuries
 - Make the case that it is the most vulnerable in the community who are at the most risk
 - Campaign for changes that reduce risk from fire both for individuals and those sent to fight the fire
 - Create an international network of those who share our ambitions

12 Months after Starting:

Where we are today...

- FSP launched and fully operational
 - Messaging and core case for support in place
 - Website, FSP blog, Information Centre, Twitter feed
 - Outreach to EC officials, MEPs and other stakeholders
 - Meeting with DG SANCO officials
 - Meeting with supporters across Europe
 - Letter to all members of the EP and other COM officials and stakeholders, including fire brigades from different countries and potential industry funders
 - Participation in events and conferences (Busworld Academy, Dutch Fire Brigade event in Amsterdam, Domestic Security conference in Oslo, FEU, Vehicles Conference Berlin.....)
 - Numerous inquiries received via website
 - Additional funding secured from SPRUE Safety
- Positive initial reactions



Goals for 2014



- **Continue to position the FSP as a leading entity on fire safety issues and broaden its support base**
 - **Widen the FSP network of fire safety advocates at European and international level**
 - **Promote the role of the Fire Service in Community Fire Safety**
 - **Become Partner in Campaign to reduce risk from CO poisoning**
 - **Make the case for improved fire safety standards in bus/coach travel**
 - **Promote innovation in Firefighting**
 - **Widen political support at EU level for harmonised fire safety standards for upholstered furniture**
 - **Foster the introduction of binding EU legislation on tourism accommodation fire safety**
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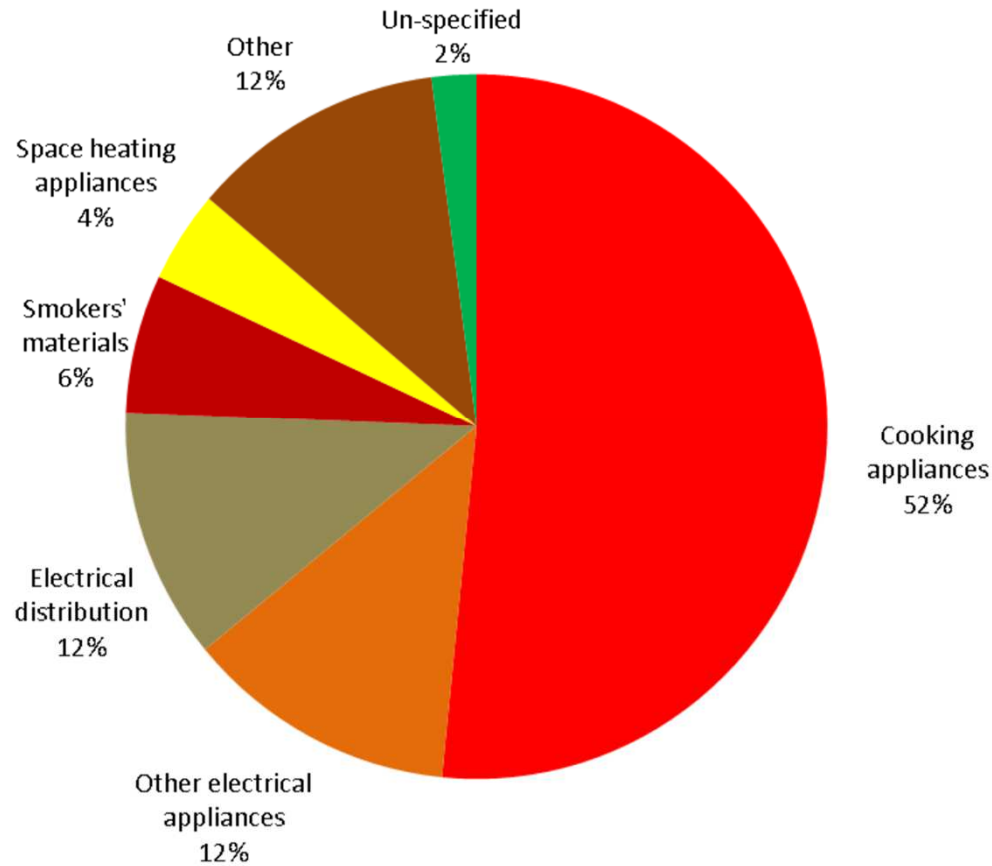
➤ **Promote the role of the Fire Service in Community Fire Safety**

- Draw on successful experience in UK/Merseyside to promote the role of firefighters in community fire safety
- Make presentations in key countries to influence their direction
- Use FSP Information Centre to promote successful initiatives
- Nurture political support for such change



All Electrical Fire Photos Supplied by the UK Electrical Safety Roundtable

GB Stats



Other Electrical:
14 Fatalities, 746 Casualties;

Electrical Distribution:
8 Fatalities, 450 Casualties

Fires in Electrical Appliances:
Fell by 25% in 10 years

Actions for 2014



➤ **Become Partner in Campaign to reduce risk from CO poisoning**

- Become active in EU campaign for increased safety around CO
- Promote best practice through FSP information centre
- Support UK political efforts to make smoke and CO alarms mandatory in rented properties

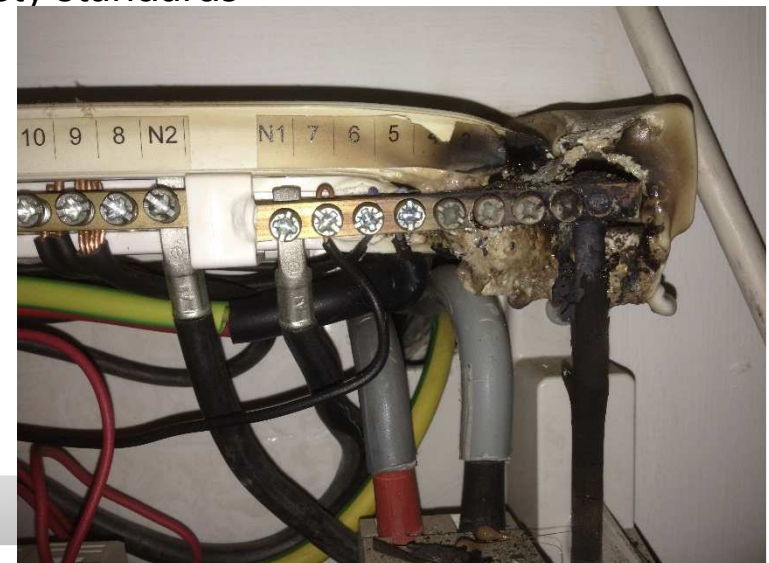


Actions for 2014



➤ Make the case for improved fire safety standards in bus/coach travel

- Fires throughout the world causing death and injury
 - Sweden – 1% of buses catch fire every year
 - Large proportion given as 'electrical cause'
- Growing bus/coach market in emerging economies
- Through Busworld Academy, promote better safety standards
- Main themes:
 - Fire prevention
 - Fire Suppression
 - Reduced fire development
 - Improved Means of Escape
 - Improved Driver Training



Bus/Coach Fire Examples



Urumchi, China – Electrical Fire

At about 11:35 on August 5, 2013, a bus suddenly caught fire in motion in the city of Urumchi, China. So far, one passenger was killed and 6 were severely injured.

According to the witnesses, the head of the bus initially caught fire and then quickly the fire spread to the whole bus. The door was unable to open and the passengers had to escape from the windows. Within just 10 minutes, the bus was burned to framework. According to the initial investigation, it was aged circuit that caused the fire.

20 elderly people killed when a fire broke out on a coach as it travelled down the A2 motorway near Hanover in northern Germany. It is thought that some of the elderly passengers who perished had walking disabilities and were unable to escape in time. The driver, who had managed to pull over, and 12 other passengers managed to flee the burning bus. Many were injured and three of them suffering serious burns.



Bus/Coach Fire Examples



Although incident reports and statistics are not always exhaustive, literature indicates that, very approximately, 60% of the fires start in the engine compartment, 20% in the wheel well, and 20% in other areas such as the passenger or luggage compartment for example (*Michael Försth, SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, Borås, Sweden FIVE Oct 2014*)

Further analysis of the causes of engine fires suggests that at least 20% may be directly attributed to electrical faults within the engine compartment (*Paul D. Smith, Paul Rennie & Adam Chattaway Kidde Technologies Colnbrook, UK FIVE Oct 2014*)



➤ **Promote innovation in Firefighting**

- Fire Services throughout the world constantly look to improve the effectiveness and safety of their emergency response tactics
- Use FSP to help innovators spread their ideas
- Use FSP Information Centre to promote successful initiatives
- Use FSP Network to help connect like-minded individuals

Actions for 2014



- ***Awareness raising and political support for a harmonised fire safety standards for upholstered furniture at EU level***
 - Monitoring of major fires involving upholstered furniture
 - Raise awareness of dangers from PU foam filled furniture
 - Support ongoing activities in key member states. This includes:
 - Financial and strategic support to the French campaign
 - Strategic support to the Dutch fire safety advocates as appropriate
 - Work with UK stakeholders to maintain safety standards through the review of UK legislation – member of Technical Review Panel



- **Foster the introduction of binding EU legislation on tourism accommodation fire safety**
 - Support other EU stakeholders in their efforts to promote tourism accommodation fire safety
 - Actively engage in the EU debate on tourism accommodation safety, including the participation in the upcoming EC consultation on the Green paper on the safety of services, calling for the introduction of binding legislation at EU level

Communications/Sharing Knowledge



- An online platform where supporters/contributors can voice their opinions and discuss fire safety.
- The FSP website, www.firesafetyplatform.org, is designed as a unique library of fire safety material (an 'Information Centre') and a tool to mobilise opinion. Members and supporters alike will be welcome to contribute information, ideas and opinions and engage in debates about the best way to achieve our objectives.
- Our twitter account, @FireSafeFSP will allow fast communication and help to multiply our reach to an international audience.

The Future

- Ensure International Fire Safety Platform is sustainable;
- Provide help on request to our supporters;
- Develop and Nurture a partnership with professionals from the fire sector;
- Inform and influence key political decision makers;
- Ensure we communicate our successes and setbacks;
- Create a sustainable relationship with our valued supporters.

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