

FIRE TALK



March 2010

Latest news

Hello! Hopefully the New Year has seen an increase in business for you all. At the National Office, Karen has been busy sending out refresher course reminders and we have been delighted by the number of members acknowledging their commitment to 3rd party accreditation by signing up for IFEDA's quality assistance scheme.

You will have received details about IFEDA's next National Conference; the new venue is a lot more exciting and would make a great weekend break for the family: see you in Telford.

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IFEDA ARE EXHIBITING AT FIREX SOUTH



FIREX SOUTH

16- 17 March 2010
Sandown Exhibition Centre

If you are attending, come along and say hello and see how IFEDA can help your business.

We're on stand F13

New training facilities

Scotland



We are delighted to announce that thanks to the good offices of Rapid Fire Services Ltd of Glasgow; IFEDA now has dedicated training facilities North of the Border. To start we will be running extinguisher refresher courses. The initial 3 day extinguisher technician training courses will follow.

Midlands

With special thanks to Paul Kerman, later this year IFEDA will also begin refresher training at Spectrum Fire Protection Ltd, Walsall. Adding this location means Midlands based members will no longer have so far to travel.

Both of these new locations are situated near to major routes/motorways.



N.B. IFEDA extinguisher courses are BAFE recognised as per SP101/ST104



BAFE news

SP101 Working group

There is a BAFE working group reviewing SP101/ST104 - The Registered

Service Technicians' Scheme for Contract Maintenance of portable Fire Extinguishers. IFEDA is represented on this by Colin Payne and Graham Ferris. If you have any points of view or questions you would like considered please contact either Colin or Graham.

New BAFE badges

The BAFE Identity badge has changed to provide greater security and to more clearly identify 'provisional' badges. Now you will see:

- A new BAFE security hologram on the Full Accredited Technician badge
- A prominent red stripe on the right edge showing 'provisional' where appropriate
- There is NO LONGER a requirement for a signature on the badge
- BAFE will not be reissuing current badges, but they will be issued when replacement is due

The RRO: Latest charges and prosecutions

Preston, February 2010

Two charged over safety of blaze-hit flats.



Business partners Winston Barrett and Paul Milner are charged with 13 fire safety breaches after a blaze at an apartment block in Preston. Five people were rescued from the

building, during the fire on January 18 2009, including one man from the roof. Both Barrett and Milner are accused of failing to comply with Article 32 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The charges include failing to make a suitable fire risk assessment, failing to maintain the fire alarm, a lack of emergency lighting, a lack of suitable fire doors and not having a suitable evacuation procedure.

BAFE at Firex

BAFE will be at Firex South on 16th-17th March on stand H6. They are looking forward to seeing any visitors from the industry.

Increasing BAFE awareness

BAFE are now advertising themselves and the quality of their registered companies in the Kaltz directories for Health, Local Authorities and Education sectors. They also have editorials in the Parliamentary Yearbook that goes to all MPs and Government departments and agencies; together with a number of other publications for facilities management, health and construction.

Fire Risk Assessments

BAFE is considering a scheme for companies that provide Fire Risk Assessments. They will shortly be holding a meeting of interested parties to discuss and develop a scheme document.

And finally, a request

Could all registered companies please make sure that they keep BAFE up to date with changes to the details of technicians, ISO 9001 certificates, addresses etc. The BAFE team is developing their website to enable you to do this online; in the meantime please keep them informed by the usual methods.

Taunton, February 2010

Landlords receive heavy fine for breaching a prohibition notice.

Ralph Ricardo and Alistair Gordon of Sarum Homes Ltd pleaded guilty to the breach of the notice served on their residential property under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 at Yeovil Magistrates Court, and asked for a similar offence to be taken into consideration on another property.

They were sentenced at Taunton Crown Court on 12 February and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £16,000. The conviction followed an audit in September 2008 of the property in Chard by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service which found serious concerns for public safety and a prohibition notice preventing the occupation of the property was issued. It was later found that 13 people were still living in the property.

The property was in the process of being renovated and the fire alarm and emergency lighting systems had not yet been commissioned. In addition, fire safety compartmentation had been breached which, said the fire authority, would allow fire to spread quickly throughout the building.



9th April

Small business marketing workshop

Kay Pendell-Smith of ps marketing will be running two half-day workshops at the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, on Friday 9th April. The workshops cost just £85 +VAT for IFEDA members and £99 +VAT for non-members.

The agenda includes:

- What is marketing?
- The marketing mix
- Identifying target markets
- Methods of communication to target markets (sales letters, websites, emails etc)
- Cross selling / upselling
- Promoting your business consistently
- Basic copywriting – dos and don'ts

23rd April

Fire Hose Reel course

The next Fire Hose Reel servicing course & examination as per BS 671-3 : 2009 will take place at Stockport on the 23rd April. Members £255 + VAT, Non-members £285 +VAT.

Extinguisher courses

The BAFE recognised 3 day and refresher courses can be held at your premises (subject to minimum numbers). Call the National Office for details.

Latest training dates

Don't forget to check the website for full details of forthcoming training courses www.ifeda.org/training.

News and training updates can also be found on the IFEDA website, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and the IFEDA blog at allaboutfire.blogspot.

Website and contact information

As part of our ISO procedures we are required to audit the IFEDA website. It is clear that there are some members who have updated their website and email address, but without letting the National Office know. This could result in lost custom, as a potential customer could click your link, and get a 'page not found' error, or receive a bounced back email.

Please take a few moments to check your details, and email Karen at info@ifeda.org with any updates.

Welcome



A warm welcome to the following companies who have recently been granted full membership:

- Fisk Fire of Chelmsford, Essex
- Firesolve Ltd of Huddersfield, Yorkshire
- Nationwide Fire Ltd of Claverley, Shropshire

We wish them all a long and fruitful association with IFEDA. With Fisk Fire already flying the quality flag as a BAFE registered company, and Firesolve and Nationwide signing up to the IFEDA QAS with a view to achieving 3rd party accreditation, they are very welcome additions to the IFEDA family.

Members' details and the services they provide can be found on the website homepage www.ifeda.org under the 'list of full members' tab.

Exclusive to IFEDA members! IFEDA Service Manual on CD-Rom & Intranet



The new and updated version of the IFEDA Service Manual has been over two years in the making and is a must for all companies who undertake the supply and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers, including wheeled units. Engineers must have ready access to the service instruction for any type of equipment they work on. This can now all be achieved with just one CD-Rom.

The CD contains:

- The full service instructions on hundreds of the most popular makes of fire extinguishers within the UK
- The IFEDA Guide to servicing portable extinguishers
- The IFEDA Guide to servicing wheeled units

At just £95 + VAT it represents excellent value

The New 'Service Technicians' Intranet Service

The Association has developed an intranet service for service technicians which can be accessed from any computer, PDA or web enabled mobile phone.

The Intranet Site contains:

- As per the CD-Rom
- Access to technical memos concerning fire fighting equipment
- Access to various useful documents required by a technician
- Access to the Service Technician's Discussion Forum
- Instant information concerning safety alerts
- The servicing instructions for new extinguisher models updated as soon as they are available

With an initial cost of £80+VAT for the CD, and then just £20+VAT per year for company access, plus a small sum per engineer; this service is outstanding value for money and also represents a huge benefit to service technicians.

IFEDA: Why we champion 3rd party accreditation

The National Office receives many membership enquiries. Some join, some don't, but more than a few baulk at IFEDA's required commitment to 3rd party accreditation. A recent caller stated "he couldn't see the point".

The following is the point:

Recently a member told us he had gone to a site to do some alarm work and the customer said "I have just had my fire extinguishers serviced and they were very cheap". When our member asked to see the fire certificate, issued February 2010 it stated that the fire extinguishers had been serviced to BS5306-3: 1985.

From this we can deduce that the servicing company are not aware of at least 3 updates to BS5306-3, if they are working to a 1985 version they are probably not aware of the RRO and have probably not had a refresher.

IFEDA believes that 3rd party accreditation would weed out this sort of company (and others), such questionable working practices gives other servicing companies a bad reputation. This is why IFEDA champions 3rd party accreditation; requiring a company to have access to the latest standards and work to the contents.

Until next time...

That's it for this issue; remember we're here to help, so please get in touch with any questions or queries.