

FireTalk

THE INDEPENDENT FIRE ENGINEERING
& DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION



December 2009

Latest News

Welcome to the latest edition of Fire Talk. With the summer holidays seeming a long way away and the year racing to a close a very busy month of November saw two major and highly successful events. The first was the IFEDA National Conference and second was the inaugural IFEDA/BFC golf competition on the edge of Dartmoor. Photos of the golf can be found via the IFEDA website home page and a new tab called 'events' whilst the pictures of the IFEDA National Conference weekend will be added to the members area as soon as possible. And finally, a bit of 'a pat on the back' for the National Office as we successfully upgraded to ISO 9001: 2008

IFEDA news - online



The online members' edition of this newsletter includes additional articles on fire safety breaches including news of a record fine of some £400,000 for high street retailer New Look, a caption competition to win a superb, black silk, IFEDA tie and news about IFEDA's brand new intranet. Please visit www.ifeda.org and click through to the members' area

Stop Press · Stop Press ·····

IFEDA's 2010 National Conference will take place at the Telford Hotel and Golf Resort on the weekend of 15th/16th October - Great facilities for wives/partners who can chill out in the gym/swimming pool or spa with beauty treatments etc, play a round of golf or even go shopping. And there are lots of nearby child friendly attractions such as the Victorian town of Blists Hill and various museums including the Ironbridge gorge heritage museum.

Details in the New Year.

THE IFEDA A.G.M. 2009

The latest IFEDA National conference took place at the Charlecote Hotel near in Stratford upon Avon and attending members all agreed it was a day full of interesting and informative workshops/presentations. On the 20th anniversary of IFEDA's inception the Chairman, Colin Payne, highlighted our many achievements over the intervening years not least in being the first fire trade association to achieve ISO 9001 and in 2004 becoming the first association to embrace BAFE approval for its members. He went on to state that in a difficult trading year membership had continued to grow and through the many different committees that Officers attended IFEDA would be, as always, at the forefront fighting for member's interests and just as importantly campaigning to bring improvements where it can. As pioneers of the commitment to 3rd party accreditation through BAFE, IFEDA members were delighted to greet BAFE General Manager Stephen Adams and catch up with all of BAFE's latest news and future intentions. Members also picked up some useful tips re 'marketing on a budget' as well as catching up with the latest Asbestos regulations and learning about an extremely useful software package for fire risk assessments,



before finally taking part in an interesting discussion led by John Judd, Chairman of the IFE on the future of the fire service. For the members who were able to stay and enjoy the evening's entertainment comedian Mickey Pugh had everyone chuckling into their dinners before the calories were bopped away until the early hours. [Pictured left is Don Munro updating members on the FGAs regulations]



BAFE accreditation & continued membership

Whilst the IFEDA team have an objective of encouraging members to join and remain members of the association sadly there are occasions when membership has to be cancelled: IFEDA will not compromise its quality standards and where members refuse to honour their stated commitment to achieve ISO 9001 and/or the appropriate BAFE modules we are left with no option but to let them go. Unfortunately we are, as of the last newsletter, three members down for the above reason. However, we would like to think that this demonstrable adherence to quality standards is the reason for the healthy new member joining rate.



The National Management Committee (and the National Office) would like to thank all our members for your continued support and to wish you all (and indeed, anyone reading this newsletter) a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and of course a Prosperous New Year



IFEDA: Offering guidance, support and training

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IFEDA training

2010

Whilst the latest training dates for our Fareham and Stockport training centres re fire extinguishers and hose reels can be found at www.ifeda.org/ training please be aware that extra one day refresher courses are being held at:-

**Cambourne Cornwall 13/14th May
Middlesborough DTBC**

More locations and dates to be added

Dependent on numbers the BAFE recognised 3 day and refresher courses can be held at your premises. Please call the national office for details.

Dry Riser course—Stockport: watch this space and our IFEDA website, Facebook, LinkedIn and/or twitter pages for details



Welcome



We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following companies who have recently been granted full membership of IFEDA:-

- **Direct Fire & Safety Ltd of St Helens, Merseyside**
- **The Walters Group of Milford Haven**
- **Guardian Security (SW) Ltd of Exeter**
- **3 Counties M&G Ltd of Haslemere Surrey**
- **Inferno Fire Safety & Security Solutions of Abertridwr, Caerphilly**
- **MDL Fireworks Ltd of Preston**
- **David Wright— Fire Protection Services of Beverley**
- **Fairhurst Ward Abbotts Ltd of Greenhithe Kent**
- **Fal Fire Protection Ltd of Penryn, Cornwall**
- **The Fire Company of Plymouth**

We wish them all a long and fruitful association with IFEDA and as part of IFEDA's services to members, in the New year we will have exciting news about assistance in attaining ISO/BAFE accreditation. Details of, and the services offered by, new and established members can be found via the IFEDA website homepage www.ifeda.org and the 'full members' tab.

Fire Safety Breaches - October 2009 Chinese restaurant fined £7000 (it's all about the responsible person).

A former restaurant manager has been ordered to pay over £7,000 in fines and costs after pleading guilty to serious breaches of fire safety legislation following a prosecution brought by the London Fire Brigade.

Mr Wei Chen who was managing Kan's Chinese and Thai Cuisine at the time of the breaches admitted guilt on 10 contraventions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Sentencing occurred on Monday 26 October 2009 at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court. In June 2007, visiting fire inspectors discovered a number of fire safety breaches and an enforcement notice was issued requiring Mr Wei Chen to remedy the faults by 11 April 2008. A further inspection took place on 29 April 2008 and all of the fire safety breaches were still evident. These included no fire warning system, no fire exit signs and inadequate fire safety training to staff. There was also no fire risk assessment done for the premises. It was noted in court that there had been a history of non compliance with fire regulations dating back to December 2005.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order places a duty on a defined 'responsible person' for the premises (the person who controls the premises e.g. a landlord/manager/owner) to carry out a fire risk assessment, take appropriate measures to minimise the risk of fire and implement general fire precautions to protect people in the premises if a fire occurs. The assessment and the fire precautions must be kept under review by the 'responsible person'. In this case Mr Wei Chen was the responsible person.

Assistant Commissioner for fire safety regulation Steve Turek said: "Knowing about fire safety is not an option, if you are the responsible person it is a necessity and if people do not adhere to the legislation then as shown in this case we can prosecute. The general public should feel safe from fire when going out to places like restaurants and the responsible person must make sure their premises comply with the regulations. All premises owners and operators must undertake a fire safety risk assessment, which is now mandatory, act upon its findings and put in place an emergency plan."



Member's news · Member's news · Member's news

Fire Protection Supplies Ltd

Party time up in Hull as FPS become the latest IFEDA member to be celebrating their ISO 9001 : 2008 accreditation And, just a short time later their BAFE SP101 accreditation as well. Well done guys. Fire Protection Supplies can be contacted on 01482 881515 or via their website www.fireprotectionsupplies.co.uk



Winner – Company of the Year

We were delighted to learn that Abbot Fire Group recently won Company of the Year at the North Bucks and Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce awards ceremony.

Nigel Walton told me "We're proud to have won this prestigious award, and it couldn't be achieved without our constant feedback and communication with our customers. Furthermore, we have never lost a dissatisfied customer since the company started trading in 2002, and gained many by reputation.

We believe it is this core focus on our business and providing a reputable and professional service that ensures we deliver time after time." Whilst the judges commented: "Abbot has shown how retaining a focus on their core business and on execution has achieved 20 per cent year on year growth in a difficult trading position. Their clear vision and commitment to customers is a clear differentiation whilst finding new routes to market." A great effort by the Abbot team: well done. Abbot Fire Group can be contacted on 0330 440 1815 or via their website www.abbotfiregroup.co.uk



Directors Chrissy and Nigel Walton receiving their award.