The Fire Trade Association here to support small and medium sized professional fire companies.

Unit 16 Enterprise House
44-46 Terrace Road
Walton-on-Thames
Surrey KT12 2SD

t. 01932 252306
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Minutes of the General Meeting held on the 17th of October 2025 hosted by Checkfire Ltd in Pontypridd, South Wales

Attendees

UK-FA Directors
Andrew Berry - Chairman
Alan Palmer - Secretary
Dan Davis - Treasurer

UK-FA Members
Peter Edwards - Fire Defense
Steve Brennan – At Hand Fire Protection
Mark Bridgens - Everlux
Niki Johnson - Derventio Fire & Security Ltd
Nick Grant - Equipro
Kevin Murphy - Equipro
Janine Elliot - Equipro
Liam Reed - Trent Safety Services
Adrian Speak - Triple S: Speak Safety Solutions
Tom Law
Susan Law

Apologies
Geoff Pithouse - GP Service
Rob McCoppin - Maple Carpentry
Sarah Howell - Fireline
Mike Ditanna - Jewel Fire Group

General Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Secretary, Alan Palmer welcomed everyone for making the effort to attend the General Meeting and ran through general housekeeping, the order for the day ahead and introduced the post meeting speakers, details below. Everyone in the room then had a chance to introduce themselves and the business that they represent.

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2. Chairmans Welcome

The Chairman, Andrew Berry warmly welcomed everyone and gave an oversight into his experience witnessing the lithium-ion battery fire suppressing agent that Equipro introduced in their later presentation, successfully extinguishing significant fire albeit in the motor racing world.

3. Treasurers Report (including Membership)

The Treasurer, Dan Davis gave the following report.

Our current bank account balance stands at £47,681 in the current account with reserves in a high interest account of an additional £55,000, the Associations finances are very sound standing at £105,209 in total including the interest from the high interest account of £2,528 which it is planned to be used for apprenticeship tool boxes.

Membership currently stands at 251 with a membership drive planned in the months ahead leading up to Christmas.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Alan Palmer started by showing a video of a quality fire blanket successfully putting out a fire in a gas fire simulator. The second showed an inferior Chinese fire blanket widely available on Amazon failing to extinguish the same fire in the same informal test scenario.

Alan went on to discuss the reasons for Members not receiving a time consuming to prepare and little often read newsletter, but instead reasonably up to the minute "Technical" and "Information" Bulletins by email. He said that there are occasions where Members have not been receiving them so he urged Members at the meeting and those reading these minutes to check their inbox and junk folders, and if you have not received a steady flow of Bulletins over the last few months please contact our Office Manager Claire at admin@uk-fa.org.

The Secretary went on to discuss the rapid growth in the UK of Ceasefire and the positive feedback he has heard about them vouched for by one member in the room who uses them. TG Products have not been secretive in their staging a significant comeback to the market and again feedback has been very positive to date, and the company have become UK-FA Members.

Alan reminded everyone that BS5839-1:2025 the fire alarms in commercial applications standard was released at the end of April this year. BS5266-1:2025 the revised emergency lighting standard is due for release on the 29th of October. Members can enjoy a 30% discount when buying British Standards through the UK-FA Treasurer - treasurer@uk-fa.org.

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The Directors met the day before the GM on the 16th of October for a face-to-face Executive Meeting which is held annually to put our heads together reviewing the association year-to-date and planning ahead for 2026-27 financial year. We review the budgets, look at improving benefits to Members from UK-FA membership, plan events and nominate a charity we will support through the year ahead.

Alan went on to discuss the latest situation with regard to AFFF/wet chemical/water additive agents disposal first revisiting the Environment Agency's written policy covered in their own Regulatory Position Statement RPS132 which ends in stating that this will be withdrawn on the 1st of September 2025. Do not be misled by this wording, it is still current until it is updated or terminated! ABC MacIntosh has kindly provided the UK fire trade with details of the European Commission regulations that came into affect in the EU from the 1st of October 2025, this and other information regarding the disposal of extinguishing agents containing PFAS can be found in the news section on the UK-FA.org homepage,. In essence extinguishers containing PFAS (AFFF/wet chemical/water additive, etc.) can be placed on the market up until 23rd October 2026 - the exception being alcohol resistant firefighting foams until 23rd April 2027). Existing PFAS containing extinguishers may continue to be used until 31st December 2030. Bear in mind these are EU regulations and the UK has yet to provide firm details, but it is widely anticipated that we will almost certainly follow the EU approach.

5. BSI Committee and Fire Sector Federation Reports

Peter Edwards and **Mike Ditanna** representatives on the **BSI FSH/2 Committee** for fire extinguishers.

- One meeting has taken place since our last AGM by Zoom on 16th July 2025.
- A digital innovation working group is to be considered and established.
- Systematic reviews have opened for;
  1. Fire Blankets for Electric Cars.
  2. Fire Blanket Service and Maintenance Standard.
  3. Portable aerosol dispensers, there is doubt that the standard that is proposed is workable.
- Updated discussions on new standard for Lithium-Ion Battery fires likely to be under EN3-11.
  Test will be as Kiwa test in the Netherlands.
  3 Minutes to extinguish the fire.
  Further 20 minutes to ensure there is no re ignition.
  Letter L will be used for the screen printing once a standard has been agreed.
  The group will challenge this draft to suggest improvements.
- The major issue at the July meeting was a comprehensive review of proposed changes to EN3-7 draft.
  Significant debate especially on the proposed changes to wording for using water-based extinguishers on live electrical fires. The group could not reach any consensus on this and was split down the middle so the outcome was to say to the EU that proposed changes to the draft cannot be considered.

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There was a suggestion to change the 183B rating on a 9l Fluorine Free Foam extinguisher to a 144B rating, but the group did not endorse this for the UK.
A proposal to introduce a class 3A fire was rejected.
Marking for Fluorine Free Foam extinguishers was agreed for the label in box one to differentiate them from AFFF foams in the market.

Mark Bridgens representative on the **BSI signage Committee**.

- BS5499-4:2013 gives recommendations for the selection and use of escape route signs and is up for review and is expected to reference the ISO7010 graphical symbols.
- BS9991:2024 was amended in November 2024 to include low level lighting specification it mandates the provision of a low-mounted way guidance system in the staircases of residential buildings over 50 metres in height.

Niki Johnson is our representative at the **Fire Sector Federation**.

- The FSF is changing its title to Fire Sector Confederation due to internal structural changes, and it seems to also increase the organisations impact at Governmental and influential levels.
- Niki provides a report at the end of each meeting – where appropriate, which we circulate to Members through an Information Bulletin.

6. Any Other Business

Liam Reed from Trent Safety Services thanked the UK-FA for it's support of charitable event he was involved in.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Secretary proposed that the next Annual General Meeting with evening dinner and dance, will be held in Cheltenham on Friday 17th October 2026.

The General Meeting was formally closed at 11am.

The meeting continued with presentations from our speakers.

The presentations were forwarded by email to Members with these Minutes.

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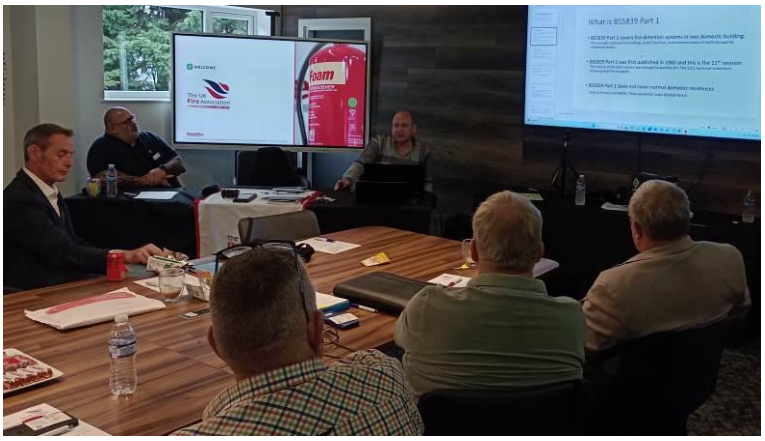
Nick Grant - Equipro introduced Equinox fire suppression systems based on Coldfire encapsulator agent – a micelle forming wetting agent.

Niki Johnson provided a review of the significant changes in BS5839-1:2025 compared with the previous 2018 edition.



Anthony Robins - Fire Seals Direct introduced this Checkfire Ltd associate company's range of fire door and fire stopping products.

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The meeting concluded with a lively educational tour of Checkfire Ltd offices and warehouse with product demonstrations, hosted by Bruce Robins and team.

Acknowledgements and thanks

To all our speakers and the team at Checkfire Ltd for hosting the meeting and sponsoring lunch and refreshments, making this another smoothly run and memorable event.

To you if you could attend the meeting, contributing interesting views and valuable ideas, then networking at break times to make this such a warm and friendly gathering.

Alan Palmer

Secretary
For and on behalf of the UK Fire Association

The UK Fire Association Ltd is Limited by Guarantee and trades as 'UKFA' and 'UK-FA'.
The directors are Mr A Berry - Chairman, Mr D Davis - Treasurer and Mr A Palmer - Secretary.
Company number: 6799862 registered at the address shown at the top of the page.