

Members January 2012 News Update

31 January 2012

Dear Member,

Welcome to our first news update for 2012. I hope you had a well earned rest over Christmas and the New Year – now just a distant memory!

Talking about 'memory' we hope that you will find the UKFA members memory key useful. We felt that it was more functional than sending you a Christmas card and if you attach it to your key ring may help keep us at the forefront of your mind!

Things here have been busy with our first members to become Audited Members and the start of the Fire Risk Assessors register and we have had a record number of new applications – things look very positive for 2012. Our third AGM is not that far away and we have found a beautiful location that will be worth making into a weekend break – perhaps with your partner?

You will have noticed that have changed the format of the News Update into a pdf attachment as formatting was often getting corrupted when it was received so this should improve the quality.

UKFA VOLUNTARY AUDITING SCHEME

Two members have now completed auditing by our assessors and I am delighted that **Herts Fire Protection** in Hertfordshire and **Firebreak Fire Protection Services** in Stirlingshire are our first members to successfully pass through the process and are now entitled to use the UK Audited Members logo on their stationery and vehicles.

We now have two trial audit slots available, one in the South West and the other in the North East/East Midlands areas at the introductory rate of £250 + VAT - reduced from the usual £330.00 + VAT. If you would like to take part contact the secretary at admin@uk-fa.org.



BAFE

We do not want to go head to head with BAFE however following the poor response in May last year to the UKFA being accepted onto BAFE Council this has left many members questioning it's value (apart from the long awaited single industry extinguisher technicians examination) for the smaller fire trade company that typically make up our membership.

I have been asked to gauge Members opinions about building upon the Members Voluntary Auditing Scheme to create a UKFA Extinguisher Technicians Scheme. This would require a significant amount time in planning and executing but is something that I would be interested in receiving your thoughts about, before we debate the idea at the AGM in April. Email me at admin@uk-fa.org.

PROBUILD MAGAZINE FEATURE

I was offered the chance to contribute an article free of charge in ProBuild Magazine to further extend our presence into the construction industry. As we all know there is no such thing as a free lunch and to get this it means that members will be contacted to find out if they will support the feature. I know that several of you have already committed to advertise and I would appreciate feedback as to the quality of the enquiries you receive. I have attached the article for your own reference and it will feature in the news articles section on our website shortly.

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

As you may have noticed we have a backlog of work due to our internet whiz being a little over committed at the moment! If you know of someone with proven webpage management talent, with some spare time who is reasonably priced please let me know at admin@uk-fa.org.

UKFA TRAINING COURSES

Our own **EXTINGUISHER TECHNICIAN REFRESHER** courses are as popular as ever as they provide much more than just a product update – our aim is that you should come away re-motivated and able with the ideas you learn to more than make up the outlay in terms of time and cost you put into the course! Perhaps we're not the cheapest, but we do try to give you the best professional development!

We ran full courses in Aberdeen, Basildon and Belfast before Christmas and demand is looking strong enough to return to these course locations again in the next few weeks. These are the planned dates but they are subject to change with demand and other commitments. So if you are interested in a particular course venue either now or later in the year **LET US KNOW NOW** so we can try to best suit your requirements at admin@uk-fa.org or telephone the office on 01932 252306.

Basildon	2 February
Belfast	16 February
Swindon	22 February
Coventry	23 February
Dunfermline	1 March
Aberdeen	2 March
Mansfield	8 March
Leeds	29 March

The course cost is **£155 + VAT per person** for UKFA members and **£175 + VAT** to non members.

HOSE REEL INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE training is available to run in-situ at you own facilities from **£595.00 + VAT** – subject to travel distance. For more information contact us at admin@uk-fa.org.

OTHER TRAINING COURSES

The next **DRY RISER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE** courses will be run by Alan Price (subject to demand) from his facilities in Melksham, Wiltshire at the end of March. Students install an actual dry riser and test the completed system. The cost for UKFA members is still **£495.00 each + VAT** (non members £695.00 each + VAT). Alan is busy training teams of technicians for some of our larger Members.

For more information and to reserve places contact Alan Price directly at alan@firesprinklersystemsuk.com or call him on 01225 782120.

F.I.R.E LTD is proposing to run **Extinguisher Technician Four Day Courses** with **BAFE** examinations during the first quarter 2012 in the following locations;

Belfast	13-16 February
Dunfermline	27 February – 1 March
Nottingham	5-8 March
Swindon/Reading	5-8 March
Dartford	12-15 March
Taunton	19-22 March
Leeds	26-29 March
Aberdeen	16-19 April

The course cost is **£655 + VAT per person for UKFA members** and £675 + VAT to non members. If you would like further information or reserve places, you can book directly online with **F.I.R.E LTD** at www.firecontingency.co.uk/training/technicians.php, alternatively send an email directly to office@firecontingency.co.uk or you can telephone 01932 222010. These are the planned dates but they are subject to change with demand and other commitments. So if you are interested in a particular course venue either now or later in the year **LET US KNOW NOW** so we can plan around your requirements.

REGARDING “START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW REVENUE STREAM”

In November UKFA members were offered through these pages the chance to generate extra revenues by distributing a new video based Fire Safety e learning course. Working with VideoTile, members can obtain a free branded version of the course, distributor licence and marketing materials.

Since introducing members to this opportunity several people have come back to me unhappy with the follow up sales approach which implied that I was ‘working with’ Andy Hines, which I am not - other than putting the offer in the newsletter. It has also been alleged that the contract terms are onerous and the numbers you would need to sell would challenge most of our members.

It is my intention in future not to advertise products or services offered by non members other than in exceptional circumstances.

MEMBERSHIP

Our numbers are steadily rising; we now have 114 members with 5 applications pending.

FIRE ENGINE FOR SALE

As you may already have seen Alan Price is selling a Volvo fire engine previously used to test dry risers and hydrants.

He is looking for offers in the region of £6,000-7,000.

If you are interested email him at alan@specialistfireservices.co.uk or call him on 01373 822044 / 07772 835659.



DROP DOWN FIRE CURTAIN HELP NEEDED

Dave Gough at Herts Fire Protection is looking for someone who can service and also supply replacement drop down fire curtains. If you can do this or know someone else who can please let Dave know by email at herts.fire@ntlworld.com or call him on 07702 271175.

THE END OF ALCOHOL RESISTANT FOAM EXTINGUISHERS?

Dave Gough at Herts Fire Protection reports that it seems that alcohol resistant foam has been withdrawn on environmental grounds and it seems that these extinguishers are no longer available. I did not get a chance to check the situation with any of the leading extinguisher manufacturers before going to print so if you have any information please let me know by email to admin@uk-fa.org.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This years meeting will be held on **Saturday the 28th April** at the beautiful **Leeds Castle** situated near Maidstone in Kent. Follow this link for more information www.leeds-castle.com/land.php.

Refreshments will be available upon arrival from 8.45am with the meeting commencing at 9.30am sharp and finishing at 1.00pm followed with a two course lunch. There will be plenty of chances to network with other members before, during and after the meeting. The dress code is smart casual.

Limited exhibition space is available by appointment for members to present their products and services.

You will be assured a very warm welcome, the chance to network and have the opportunity to put forward your valued points and ideas during lively open discussions and debates.

After lunch Members and their guests are invited to walk around the Castle and grounds. Phill Wright from Wrightway Safety Ltd had the unenviable task of carrying out the Fire Risk Assessment of this building that dates in places back to medieval times and he will be our guide adding a different dimension to the usual Castle tour – no ghosts and ghouls maybe but plenty of other horror stories I'm sure!

In the evening we will hold the AGM Dinner and Dance at the **Mercure Maidstone Hotel** which is closely located to the circa 900 year old Castle. A delegate double occupancy room rate of £95.00 including VAT, bed and breakfast has been negotiated with the hotel –quote the **“UK Fire Association AGM”** at the time of booking to get the discounted rates. Any problems refer to Karina Stevens our hotel contact. Book now as the hotel has another function the same evening and rooms will become scarcer nearer the time. Follow this link for more information www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-8353-mercure-maidstone-hotel/index.shtml.

If you are working on a budget the nearest Premier Inn is only a 6 mile taxi drive away and currently a very affordable £34 a night! Follow this link for more information www.premierinn.com/en/checkHotel/MAIMAL/maidstone-sandling.

RSVP now places are limited. Simply copy the details below onto your email, complete and send it to me at secretary@uk-fa.org.uk;

Your company name and contact telephone number:

Name of the principal person attending the AGM:

Name of members one additional **FREE** guest attending the AGM:

Any special dietary requirements (lunch):

Details of anything you would like to be brought up at the meeting (even if you cannot attend in person):

We are attending the AGM and **will/will not** be attending the evening dinner and dance.

Name of the principal person attending the evening function:

Name of partner attending the evening function:

Name of additional guests attending the evening function (at £25 per person):

Any special dietary requirements (dinner):

We look forward to seeing you. Come and take part, make a difference, make new friends and get something more out your membership!

AGENDA

Welcome

Exhibition of Members Products and Services

Introductions

Apologies

Chairman's Address

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Treasurers Report including Membership

Secretaries Report including Training

Debates and Open Forum

Any Other Business

Guest Speakers

Lunch

UKFA FIRE RISK ASSESSOR REGISTER

I am pleased to announce that the following members are the first to have been accepted into the scheme; **ITS, Kell Safety, Express Fire Equipment, F.I.R.E LTD, Newflame Fire & Equipment and Wrightway Safety Ltd.** Congratulations to these companies who will I'm sure tell you if asked that the process was painless!

We have deliberately not made an over elaborate scheme that creates another level of expensive and intrusive bureaucracy, but instead something that will reassure consumers that those members listed on the register are suitably experienced, competent and have appropriate and adequate levels of insurance.

It is not too late to join and is **FREE** to UKFA members to register so if you would like to apply please print off and complete the Application Form attached and post it to the Secretary along with the required supporting documentation.

If you carry out fire risk assessments and want to enhance your credibility what are you waiting for? Get the application in!

I am looking for your non copyright photographs of unusual or bizarre things you have seen related to your work in fire safety that we can feature in future News Updates. Please email me your photos with a brief written explanation to admin@uk-fa.org.



Alan Palmer - Secretary

The UKFA does not take responsibility in any form for third party products or services featured in this newsletter.

The UK Fire Association Ltd is Limited by Guarantee and trades as 'UK FA' and 'UK-FA'.
The directors are Mr A Price - Managing, Mr T Law - Financial and Mr A Palmer - Secretary.
Company number: 6799862 registered at the address shown at the top of the page.