

inFIRE Conference summary - Wednesday, Oct. 13.

The second day of the conference program was facilitated by Margaret Fuller of the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, UK. Our first speaker was Gwen Buch from the Dept. of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), Western Australia, who spoke to us about their records management online training module. CALM is a highly regionalized agency, with offices scattered over 100 locations across the State. As a result, the provision of record keeping training to employees has been a constant challenge for the Corporate Information Section. The creative and innovative solution chosen was an interactive online recordkeeping awareness training package (RAT). The RAT was implemented via the Internet and is linked to a learning management system that provides a reporting mechanism which facilitates monitoring.

The next speaker was Amanda Collicutt of the UK's Fire Service College. Amanda told us about the Bain report and its recommendations for the modernization of the UK fire service. Her presentation outlined how the Library & Learning Resource Centre staff at the Fire Service College have been involved in the development of modules to support the information collection requirements of the integrated personal development system (IPDS) programmes as well as the protection of the College's intellectual property rights and information management. This was Part I of a two part presentation (Part II given by Margaret Fuller, below).

Just before the break Janet Green from FM Global showed us a DVD of the impressive new FM Global fire research facilities. A teaser to get us all excited about next year's conference!

Following the break Margaret Davson from the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) gave us a presentation titled "Supporting the Executive Development of Firefighters". Her talk highlighted the development of an EDTRANET [Professional e-Resource Centre] at the AIPM Library. Margaret focused on building and managing a professional e-Learning Centre which supports traditional teaching and learning alongside the new online teaching and learning methodologies, the management and communication of collective knowledge resources, the delivery of better education services to students, the achievement of enhanced education outcomes, and linking learning resources to the curriculum. There was no one in the audience who was not jealous of Margaret's workplace - a spectacular location overlooking beautiful Sydney Harbour.

The next speaker was Delaine Trofymowych from the Graduate School of Policing, Charles Stuart University, New South Wales. Delaine spoke to us about the benefits of professional education for emergency services personnel. Her presentation reviewed research findings regarding the perceived benefits of university education by recent graduates who work in various police and emergency services organizations throughout Australia. Part of her initial findings from a survey of EMS graduates of professional education courses was that 67% perceived that the courses improved their job performance.

After another great networking lunch, Margaret Fuller provided us with Part II of "The information role in modernizing the UK Fire and Rescue Services". Margaret followed on from Amanda's earlier presentation and touched on issues such as the licensing and franchising of courses (the Fire Service college has to generate funds), the Freedom of Information Act which is coming into force in Jan 2005, and the Information Asset Register (a central place to find all UK databases and information).

Phill Cribb of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) of Western Australia followed Margaret's talk with a presentation called "Safe and Secure?". Phill talked to us about how it has been recognized that an increasing number of householders are installing physical security barriers in the form of screens and bars to windows and doors within their homes. As a result, there is a growing potential for more incidents to occur where the existence of these security

measures impacts on the fire safety of the occupants of the home. It is a good idea for the security industry, police, and firefighters to work together to come up with security measures that are effective but at the same time safe.

After the coffee break, inFIRE Chair Susan Walker gave us a presentation about her organization and the differences between IFSTA and FPP. Through the years, customers and fire service personnel who have followed the progress of her organization have noticed that at any given time it may be referred to by one of two names: Fire Protection Publications (FPP) or the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA). To some, it may seem that these names can be used interchangeably. Susan took the time to explain the relationship between the two and the role of Oklahoma State University.

Our last speaker of the day was John Truswell from FESA, who talked to us about fire protection in tunnels and the safety issues involved in the construction of the Graham Farmer Freeway in Australia. At the end of his presentation John provided a list of URL's for more information on tunnel fires, which I did not write down for this summary but will no doubt appear as part of the conference proceedings on the inFIRE website.