

IFAFRI NEWS

International First Responder Forum Newsletter



Photo: IFAFRI delegation during the Annual Forum Meeting (AFM) in Brussels (December 2018).

IFAFRI 2019: IFAFRI in action. An interview with first responder Tim Clapp

By Manouk Zwartkruis

Tim has been an active member of the UK fire service for more than two decades. As a child he always wanted to become a fire fighter. Now 23 years later, he is part of the R&D department of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) encouraging innovation and an evidence-based approach to research whilst horizon scanning, promoting collaboration and helping to influence change, ultimately improving the safety of our first responders. communities.

Tell us a bit about your background and why you have decided to pursue a career in fire and rescue management.

My initial goal was not management but as simple as responding to emergency situations and ultimately making a difference. Since joining Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service in 1996 I have worked my way up to my current position through varied front line, supervisory and management positions. My role has included specialist rescue equipment, procedures, training events, project management, procurement, prevention work and cultural change. Through my position within the NFCC I have had the opportunity to work at regional, national and international levels. These last two years have been a real inspiration, working with different people and responders from other countries, academics, suppliers, manufacturers, think tanks, innovators, agencies and partners encouraging collaboration and joint solutions to identified capability gaps. IFAFRI has been instrumental in establishing connections that have contributed to making a difference, influence change and ultimately provide help to improve the safety for first responders. My current role is something I enjoy very much, engaging with and speaking to like-minded people from around the world with shared interests, passions and looking into anything and everything, as well as the research and development around it. Our focus is the Fire Service, but we strive to work with all responders to facilitate and share best practice through our well-established regional network encouraging joint solutions, outcomes, technologies and innovation thereby making improvements for everyone.



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Why did the NFCC/ UK decide to engage in IFAFRI?

The NFCC are committed to develop, innovate, collaborate and grow, not only in our own emergency sector but support all emergency responders. The R&D team work in this arena on behalf of the NFCC and support DSTL (Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory) through their Blue Light Resource Group (BLRG). This introduced us to IFAFRI and what better place to operate than through an International group with the same passion, vision and goals. Being able to engage with and form part of this collaborative approach to capability gaps and innovation can only be beneficial for everyone across the UK and around the World. Therefore it is priceless.



What are your prospects and recommendation for IFAFRI developments future?

I look forward to being part of the group as it moves forward, I am motivated to make a difference and believe this collaborative approach is the way of achieving our outcomes. We need to raise IFAFRI's profile and encourage buy in from all areas (local, regional and national) as well as the International stage including senior government levels, so it is considered as a first step when engaging with emergency services. There will be certain commonalities that we can bring forward and use IFAFRI as a platform to reach out to all the different groups and sectors. In this way IFAFRI becomes a more recognised international collaborative group with shared interests. We need to highlight the benefits and longer-term gains from working together through IFAFRI. Doing so will create more capacity, reduce duplication and make realistic efficiencies whilst providing better outcomes for all responders.

However, I am interested to see how manufacturers and suppliers will pick these gaps up and use them in terms of creating technology that could fill in these gaps. For the next phase, I am really interested to see how the gaps are utilised and how our work materialises into an actual product, concept or a direction for the next stage of development.

Which were three of the most damaging fire incidents in the UK over the past two years? How would you evaluate the collaboration between different actors?

Regarding the UK as whole there have been many large fire related incidents, because of this I am answering this from my own point of view. Firstly, the Grenfell Tower, was a catastrophic incident. I have attended some large fire incidents over the last 23 years but nothing on the scale of the Grenfell fire. Secondly the Northwestern wildfires in Lancashire and Greater Manchester where a huge amount of resources were involved and thirdly the Glasgow school of arts in Scotland, which was a fire where there was a huge amount of damage.

These large-scale incidents not only challenge emergency responders but the people that provide support; other agencies, military, local resilience forums and volunteers. Investigations are still on going, so it is difficult to make a comment on outcomes, however, there is always a common example on any incident around communication, in terms of multiple agencies being able to talk to each other.

What are the most important gaps in the UK regarding first responder fire and rescue operations? And why is it important to fill these gaps?

A lot of work has been done on the latest group of capability gaps. Gaps 7, 8, 11 and 12 have been put forward in IFAFRI by the UK to the capability group (*editorial comment: the gaps are described on page 4*). It is important to collaborate with all the different countries. Many people bring different ideas and issues on what is required.

This is something that the UK emergency services have dealt with by establishing JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Program) for effective multi-agency operations. I know this is being addressed through the IFAFRI SOO documents (Statement of Objectives) around communications, understanding needs and being able to share information across different agencies during an emergency and will support future collaboration.

So, do you think this communication problem is related to human or technology failure?

I think it is technology. People are well-trained, motivated and very professional. Sometimes we can be quite restricted by the equipment we have available, which is no ones fault. If we could click our fingers and everything would be integrated into one particular system that would probably help massively. I do not want to pin everything on communications but most of the time the conclusion is that communications could have been better. These types of incidents are very hard to manage and very difficult to train for. You cannot train on an incident like Grenfell Tower, the conditions were horrific and so challenging making it the extreme for everybody involved.

What could be improved in the collaboration between different actors in crisis situations in the UK? Moreover, how could IFAFRI contribute to this improvement?

As well as the current capability gaps and agrees SOO's integrating more large-scale interagency training including the volunteer sectors and national resilience forums would widen understanding and experience of joint working. IFAFRI could encourage and develop an international approach, outside of the capability gaps, incorporating lessons learnt from all responders, this could inform our National Occupational Learning (NOL) and in turn support our National Operational Guidance (NOG). I think the UK can add real value by working internationally through IFAFRI, looking at the bigger picture globally. IFAFRI has an opportunity to work with a wide range of stakeholders including Governments and NGO's. I believe that further engagement with the United Nations (UN) on disaster risk reduction and the sustainable development goals would ensure a fully joined up approach and demonstrate great potential in solving wider global problems.



What factors and competences are in your opinion most valuable during the management of a crisis situation in the UK?

Good leadership, good communication, robust procedures including inter-agency working is essential. These is not just Police, Fire and Ambulance; it includes local resilience forums and volunteers that provide invaluable support, welfare and shelter for people following events. When we leave an incident, the ongoing care doesn't stop, we must make sure people are cared for afterwards when stresses can still be high, and injuries go unseen.

These volunteers often go unrecognised but form an integral part of our emergency framework.

What will be the impact of the Brexit impact on the UK's international crisis management collaboration efforts?

International crisis management is not an area where we are directly involved. If we talk about crisis management from government, I would like to think not. In terms of IFAFRI and all first responders, for me personally, Brexit means nothing, borders and all these issues between EU Member countries shouldn't influence our work together. This sounds a bit cliché but there are no barriers between countries when it comes to first response situations. In relation to managing and sharing information, best practice and innovation to keep people safe then Brexit causes no issues. If Brexit goes ahead and we leave the EU, we carry on as we are now, fully engaged and fully collaborating supporting each other and showing the same level of respect and commitment.

Overview of the IFAFRI Capability Gaps

This section intends to inform you on the results of the Capability Gaps Committee. The committee has identified ten gaps so far. The first six gaps have been validated by first responders and are now officially approved by IFAFRI. For each of the six first gaps, Statement of Objective documents and Deep-Dive analysis have been drafted and published. To access the documents please visit the IFAFRI website ([www.https://www.internationalresponderforum.org/](https://www.internationalresponderforum.org/)). Gap 7-10 will be validated by First Responders from all IFAFRI member countries during a so called Statement Of Objectives (SOO) Meeting in summer or autumn 2019.

IFAFRI approved capability gaps:

Gap 1: The ability to know the location of responders and their proximity to risks and hazards in real time.

Gap 2: The ability to detect, monitor, and analyse passive and active threats and hazards at incident scenes in real time.

Gap 3: The ability to rapidly identify hazardous agents and contaminants.

Gap 4: The ability to incorporate information from multiple and non-traditional sources (e.g., crowdsourcing and social media) into incident command operations.

Gap 5: The ability to maintain interoperable communications with responders in any environmental condition.

Gap 6: The ability to remotely obtain critical information about the extent, perimeter, or interior of the incident.

IFAFRI gaps which need to be validated:

Gap 7: The ability to monitor the wellbeing of emergency responders.

Gap 8: The ability to conduct on-scene operations remotely without endangering responders.

Gap 9: The ability to create actionable intelligence based on data and information from multiple sources.

Gap 10: The ability to provide advanced personal protective equipment (i.e., garments, gear, and breathing apparatus) for incident type (e.g. weather, comfort, protection).



EnhANCing emergencY management and response to extreme WeaTHER and climate Events (ANYWHERE)

Extreme Weather and Climate (W&C) events are the cause of a number of hazards affecting our society through their impacts on the outdoor exposed activities and assets, and when interacting with exposed and vulnerable human and natural systems they can lead to disasters. To enhance emergency management and response to extreme **w**eather and climate **e**vents the 'ANYWHERE' project has been called to life.

The objective of ANYWHERE is to implement a Pan-European platform providing a better identification of the expected weather impacts and their location in time and space before they occur. The project is funded within EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The purpose of this project is to empower exposed responder institutions and civilians in order to increase preparedness to anticipate on the impact of extreme weather and climate changes. Also referred to as pro-active capacity of response. ANYWHERE is funded within EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

<http://anywhere-h2020.eu/>

TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Stay up-to-date and learn about close-to-market projects which have relevance to addressing the IFAFRI gaps. In this issue we have selected four IFAFRI-relevant projects and added a short description.

PROJECTS

PROTECT2 | 2016

A key enabling element to boost the Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management for the Critical Infrastructures (CI), including Urban Soft Targets, comes from the capability of pinpointing the location of the personnel operating in the frame of the Critical Infrastructure Protection.

SECINCORE | 2014—2017

SecInCoRe has designed a Secure Dynamic Cloud based concept for Information, Communication and Resource Interoperability including information exchange and access to a 'common information space'. SecInCoRe develops models for sustainable access to the information gathered throughout the project dependent on the type of stakeholder from open access to commercial service provision.

Activation of Body Worn Camera without Responder Manipulation | In development

A passive body-worn camera device that automatically activates when pre-defined triggers are stimulated. By using the suite of pre-defined triggers, the camera can remotely be activated without user intervention.

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Just send an email to : ifafri-pmo@ecorys.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

This section provides an overview of upcoming First Responder events in Europe and elsewhere in the world in early 2019. Don't miss out on them!

FIRST RESPONDER EVENTS

[Security Bratislava](#) | 13—15 March 2019 |

Bratislava

Security Bratislava 2019 is the 21st International Fair of Security Technology, Information Security, Fire Prevention and Rescue Systems, connected with 14th International Symposium of Slovak Police Academy in Bratislava.

[4th Global Summit of Research Institutes for DRR](#) | 13—15 March, 2019 | Kyoto

The event provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders in both government and non-governmental institutes involved in disaster risk reduction and resilience to come together to discuss, share and exchange ideas to contribute and be relevant to the priority areas of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

[5th Annual Congress and Medicare Expo on Trauma & Critical Care](#) | 8—10 April, 2019 | Amsterdam

Theme: Unveiling the Breakthroughs in the field of Emergency & Advanced Health Care

UPCOMING IFAFRI EVENTS

Statement of Objectives Validation Meeting |

September 2019 | location tbc

IFAFRI Stakeholder Summit Europe |

September 2019 | Brussels

Building on the success of the first Stakeholder Summit which was organised and hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington D.C., the European Commission is going to host the second edition in Brussels this year. The objective of the Stakeholder Summit is to provide industry stakeholders the opportunity to learn about needs for first responders, explore possible markets and ultimately deliver first-class security products.

The Summit furthermore gives industry representatives the chance to engage in a dialogue with the demand side (practitioners/first responders) to better identify capability needs and gaps, and to monitor innovation at all stages. As part of this event, the Statement of Objectives (SOOs) documents the will be presented, which define the operational performance parameters that proposed first responder technology solutions should meet, for all of its identified capability gaps. More information will be published in the next edition of the newsletter. If you are a First Responder or a Industry Representative and you would like to attend the Stakeholder Summit Europe, please send an Email to ifafri-pmo@ecorys.com.

Farewell Note for K. Phil Waters (Stakeholder Engagement Committee Chair, Department of Homeland Security, United States of America)

On behalf of the IFAFRI Chair Anabela Gago and all IFAFRI Members, we would like to thank you for your hard work for IFAFRI over the last years. Your contribution and efforts in developing the initiative are highly valued and will surely help to take IFAFRI to the next level in the upcoming years.

On behalf of all IFAFRI members: Enjoy your retirement, and hopefully, we will see you again sometime!

The EC PMO

Summary IFAFRI Annual Forum Meeting 2018

FIRST RESPONDER EVENTS

[The Emergency Services Show](#) | 9—11 April, 2019 | Birmingham

The Emergency Services Show is a unique event which gives emergency services professionals access to the very best knowledge, training, technology, kit, and support networks to prepare for future incidents and carry out their roles to the best of their ability.

[Emergency Medical Services Conference](#) | 26—28 April 2019 | Madrid

Through innovation, involvement, and a creative approach, EMS2019 will provide the latest knowledge in EMS – from the citizen’s emergency call all the way to pre-hospital treatment and treatment in the emergency room.

[Federation of the European Union Fire Officers Associations](#) | 16—18 May 2019 | Porto

Annual conference of the ‘Federation of the European Union Fire Officers Associations’ which expresses the opinion of FEU on any matter associated with disaster management, fire safety, fire service management, fire fighting, rescue and other emergency operations.

The IFAFRI Annual Forum Meeting took place from 4 -6 December 2018 in Brussels, Belgium and was organised in conjunction with the European Commission’s Security Research Event (SRE). The meeting consisted of three successive days with many discussions, inspirations and new visions for IFAFRI in 2019. The meeting kicked-off with a visit to the European Response Crisis Coordination Centre (ERCC). Olimpia Imperiali, in charge of the ERCC’s Analytical Team, gave the delegates a tour and explained the work processes and warning systems of the ERCC. During the visit, it became clear that the ERCC fulfils a crucial function in facilitating and connecting countries during a crisis. Later that day, IFAFRI representatives joined the exhibition of the SRE and panel discussions. Stefan Tangen (Chair of the Capability Gaps Committee) presented IFAFRI in one of the panel discussions and explained his vision on disaster resilient societies. Thursday, 5 December, started with a welcome address by the IFAFRI Chair Anabela Gago followed by a ‘tour de table’ during which each of the delegates reported on the IFAFRI-relevant matters in their respective member country. In the afternoon, the IFAFRI representatives had the opportunity to join the SRE panel discussions. Afterwards, the meetings of the three committees took place.

On December 6, the IFAFRI plenary meeting kicked-off with a presentation of Jesus Miguel Sanchez on the Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC) on disaster risk management of wildfires. After lunch, the meeting continued with updates from both the U.S. and the EC Project Management Offices and a general discussion. Overall, it were three productive and inspiring days for IFAFRI thanks to the 16 representatives that came from all over the world (Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States) to contribute to this event. The next Annual Forum Meeting will take place in late 2019. The date and location of the meeting will be announced in the next edition of the IFAFRI newsletter.

IFAFRI VIDEO

During the Annual Forum Meeting the new IFAFRI video was showed. If you want to have a look, please click [here!](#)