



## International Issues in Fire Services

**Mark Chubb**

MPP, CFO, CFPS, FIFireE, FCMI

Secretary, United States of America Branch  
The Institution of Fire Engineers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## The International Connection: The Institution of Fire Engineers

- IFE founded in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1918
- Inspired in part by IAFC (IAFE)
- More than 9,000 active members, 40 branches
- USA Branch third largest (~450 members)
- Past international president Bill Peterson

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## What makes IFE different?

- Membership is qualification-based
- Membership grades are earned through
  - Education and
  - Experience or
  - Examination
- IFE integrates across disciplines
  - Fire service, insurance, consulting, audit, investigation
- Membership qualifies for Engineering Council accreditation as CEng, IEng, EngTech

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**How do these differences reflect distinctions between USA and others?**

- Nationalization of UK fire services during WW II
- Strong central control, standards
- UK, Europe, Australasia have fewer, larger brigades
- Two-tiered entry more common
  - Officers often have university degrees, usually engineering

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**How does fire experience vary across countries?**

- Others spend less as proportion of GDP
  - Less on fire services
  - Less on built-in fire protection
  - Less on losses and damage
- Others focus less on technology more on behavior
  - Community risk reduction
  - Recognition that poverty plays a powerful role in fire risk
  - Greater commitment to social support, housing

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**What lessons do others take from USA?**

- We have a strong fire service culture
- We act as if fire is inevitable (hazard vs. risk)
- We do too little to promote community development
- We rely heavily on technology
- We injure and kill too many firefighters

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**What can we learn from other countries?**

- Outcomes matter more than inputs
- Innovation starts with education
- Risk management requires risk acceptance
- Community risk reduction begins with engagement
- We can only change others' behavior if we are willing to change ourselves first

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**What is the USA Branch doing to foster international engagement?**

- Partnerships with other national and international organizations
- Reciprocal recognition of qualifications
- Study tours and officer exchanges
- International conferences and symposia
- Training courses
- Publishing

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**How can you become involved?**

- Apply for membership
- Reciprocal recognition of CPSE, IAAI credentials
- Attend IFE continuing professional development events
- Follow us on the web and social media
  - [www.ife-usa.org](http://www.ife-usa.org)
  - [@ifeusabranh](https://twitter.com/ifeusabranh)
  - LinkedIn
  - [info@ife-usa.org](mailto:info@ife-usa.org)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---