

THE BACKGROUND

Passive Fire Protection (PFP) within the hydrocarbon and chemical industries has been in existence for many decades. However, despite this track record, and the greater understanding and knowledge that has been developed, it is evident that the subject is not understood by the industry in general, with the key knowledge residing with a limited number of people and organisations. The result is the misunderstanding and misuse of PFP systems which results in costly failures or deficiencies in the fireproofing schemes that are developed and installed. At worst some facilities are inadequately protected against fire and in some cases fireproofing has degraded, with no knowledge of whether it still works, or how to repair it. At present, there is not a single industry body fully dedicated to the subject of hydrocarbon passive fire protection in all its forms, and for its many uses.

WHAT IS PFPNet?

The Hydrocarbon Passive Fire Protection Network (PFPNet) is a not-for-profit, non-affiliated, industry organization whose aim is to increase the level of competency and knowledge around PFP across the whole supply chain. PFPNet is achieving this through a range of activities and developments that are decided by the Members and funded by a single, annual, company-wide subscription of £6000 pa. It provides a dedicated organisation that is a partnership between all Stakeholders involved in the use, design, manufacture, procurement, installation, and maintenance of fireproofing systems.

WHAT IS THE PFPNet COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK?

The PFPNet Competency Framework lays out the Stakeholder expectations of the levels of knowledge and competency for all disciplines involved in fireproofing of industrial facilities. PFPNet will have achieved its aims when the PFPNet Competency Framework, and the supporting guidance, training and accreditation, is mandated by Owners and other significant Stakeholders as a requirement for Projects and Operations.

The PFPNet Members know what is needed to raise and maintain competency, and can help in the development and dissemination of best practice to those who need to build that competency. By having all Stakeholders involved in fireproofing - be they owners, operators, designers, manufacturers, or applicators - closely involved in the development of the PFPNet Competency Framework as Members of PFPNet, it will represent the best practice that Industry can provide, and will be endorsed by Industry – for use by Industry.

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR JOINING PFPNet

PFPNet is aiming to become the organisation that will set the standard for knowledge and competency across projects and operations on hydrocarbon and chemical facilities where fireproofing is used as a mitigation measure. By joining PFPNet you will be an important part of this drive to grow a forward-looking, global, industry organisation that represents your discipline. Joining PFPNet ensures that your experience, knowledge and opinion is included in the best practice that is to be developed and disseminated to support the PFPNet Competency Framework. Members can sit on the Technical Subcommittees developing PFPNet information, so your membership enables you to directly contribute to the materials that will relate to your operations. Members and other suitably qualified companies or individuals can also bid to develop PFPNet guidance or deliver training. And by being Members you will endorse PFPNet, helping it to become the global organisation that is recognised as the Body that represents all Stakeholders involved in the protection of petrochemical industries against fire using passive fireproofing systems. As well as the voice, influence and industry profile, you will receive the material benefits of what PFPNet is producing, such as:

- Guidance documents
- Training courses
- PFPNet conference attendance
- Advertising through the PFPNet website
- Networking opportunities with your Peers and Clients

PFPNet won't be duplicating what others are doing, or what already exists. The PFPNet Competency Framework will include existing best practice from any source, including existing providers, and PFPNet will develop new guidance and training for where gaps in knowledge exist. Ultimately we are seeking a reduction in the risk of costly problems occurring, with the potential for immediate and longer term significant cost savings.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF PFPNet?

Fireproofing is a multi-disciplinary activity and PFPNet is intended to represent all safety, engineering and scientific disciplines, along with buyers, researchers, testers, installers and manufacturers. Members are drawn from industries such as oil and gas, chemical and petrochemicals, along with engineers, designers, applicators, installers, manufacturers, Regulators, Certifiers, and testing organisations.

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