Tuesday, April 17, 2018
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Registration starts at 5:30 pm
TELUS World of Science
1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Hear about cutting-edge construction safety practices, industry research, and lessons learned from international exterior cladding fires as they relate to the design and construction of modern residential buildings. With a focus on managing and designing to address fire safety risk, this workshop will discuss best practices in exterior wall finishes while addressing new considerations and awareness around residential fires. Presentations by three long-established industry experts will highlight building and fire code requirements during the course of construction for B.C.’s most common wood-frame buildings.

Don’t miss this event! Sandwiches and light refreshments will be served at the start of the seminar. Please arrive early.

Register at bchousing.org

Attending this event can help your professional development and earn you credits at ASTTBC and BC Housing.
1 Large-Scale Exterior Cladding Use and Fire Risk Considerations in Canada

Internationally, an increasing number of fires involving cladding have occurred in high-rise buildings, including structures in Dubai, Shanghai, Atlantic City, and London, UK. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the U.S. has developed research and resources to help building owners and enforcement authorities assess the fire risk of existing high-rise portfolios. Where does Canada stand? This presentation will review the international concerns in a Canadian regulatory context to consider whether Canada has similar risks and concerns.

Keith Calder

Keith is Vice-president of Technical Services, Canada for JENSEN HUGHES. As a seasoned fire engineer, Keith is involved in unique and frequently complex projects that relate to risk, fire spread and other complex fire phenomena and building or fire code requirements. He is currently researching the implicit risk of legacy building code requirements to establish a scientific basis for future codes to not be limited by legacy risks and perceptions. This work, currently underway at the University of Waterloo, will help to facilitate the use of new construction methods where they can be implemented in a definable controlled environment. Keith is a member of the Standing Committee on Use and Egress with the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, and is a member of the BC Building Code Appeal Board.


Most fire deaths occur in residential buildings, specifically in single-family homes. The increased airtightness correlating to energy efficiency in these buildings could be changing the way fires develop, potentially impacting the safety of occupants and responding firefighters. This presentation will outline research currently underway at the University of Waterloo on fire and smoke spread relative to fuel volatility and ventilation. The outcome of the research is expected to better inform the impact of airtightness, smoke alarm location, upholstered furniture volatility, and firefighting response to help identify methods and strategies to reduce fire deaths in single-family homes.

Peter Senez

Peter is Executive Vice-President of Canadian Operations and Global Forensics for JENSEN HUGHES. Having been in the fire engineering consulting industry for more than 25 years, Peter has a diversified practice in code consulting, fire engineering, and forensics. He primarily focuses on large infrastructure, design build projects, and complex investigations. Peter is also advancing research at the University of Waterloo on residential fires, firefighting techniques, and furniture standards to better understand fire risk in houses. He is JENSEN HUGHES’ representative with the Global Design Alliance, is active on task groups for NFPA 130 (transit), is an alternate on NFPA 664 (combustible dust), and a governor of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers Foundation.
Construction Fire Safety Planning

Fire safety plans are required by the BC Building and Fire Codes for construction and demolition sites. This seminar will highlight key components of construction fire safety plans, what the Fire Code calls for, and what the authority having jurisdiction might also require. The seminar discusses high-level examples of what’s involved and will be of interest to building designers, engineers, and builders as well as authorities having jurisdiction.

Bob Furlong

After 33 years of service with the City of Richmond’s Fire-Rescue department, Bob retired from his post as Chief Fire Prevention Officer. For 25 years, he performed plan compliance reviews and construction inspections prior to occupancy. However, as a self-professed Fire Code junkie, retirement was apparently not an option for Bob! For the past 11 years, he has operated a small family-based Fire Code consulting company, designing site-specific fire safety plans as well as providing technical Fire Code assistance and training to the private and public sector.