

Fire and explosion guidance project

A couple of years ago UKOOA and the UK HSE jointly decided that they needed updated guidance on the prevention, control and mitigation of fires and explosions from hydrocarbon releases on offshore platforms. Shortly after the Piper Alpha disaster a project was set up by the Steel Construction institute (SCI) to produce the well known Interim Guidance Notes (IGN) which have been supplemented by various Fire and Blast Information Group (FABIG) technical notes. Since the early 1990s the offshore industry and the HSE have invested tens of millions of pounds into research, and our understanding of the issues has grown enormously.

The purpose of the current update project is to amalgamate the new knowledge and understanding into a single set of guidance, much as the IGN achieved in 1992.

A trilogy in 4 parts

The guidance was originally intended to be in 3 parts, but as we prepared the explosion guidance we realised it was logical to incorporate the UKOOA "Fire and explosion hazard management" document into the series. The full series is therefore:

- Part 0 Hazard management (formerly UKOOA FEHM)
 - Part 1 Avoidance and mitigation of explosions
 - Part 2 Avoidance and mitigation of fires
 - Part 3 Detailed design and assessment guidance
- Parts 0 and 1 were published on the fireandblast website in October 2003.

Download Parts 0 and 1

Until the project is completed our sponsors (UKOOA and HSE) have agreed that the texts of completed parts and draft texts of developing texts will be available from our website:

http://www.fireandblast.com/ign-update/Part_0_Guidance_03.10.pdf
http://www.fireandblast.com/ign-update/Part_1_Guidance_0310.pdf

The basis documents for Part 1 are also on our website.

fireandblast.who?

David Galbraith and Ed Terry were approached in 2001 by UKOOA and the HSE to manage the production of the guidance on their behalf. We subsequently established fireandblast.com Ltd to give the project a focus and to facilitate both administration and communication. So far it seems to be working except that we sometimes get confused with FABIG. Other than the fact that both sponsors and both Galbraith Consulting Ltd and Sauf Consulting Ltd are members and supporters of FABIG we have no connection with either FABIG or SCI.

Phase 2 launched early 2004

We are pleased to announce that Phase 2, during which Part 2 will be produced, got underway in the Spring 2004, with completion expected to be in the Spring 2005. Since then we have appointed experts in various aspects of fire engineering to prepare outlines of the text that will be required in the guidance on "Avoidance and mitigation of fires".

Regular newsletters instituted

We have recently had a concern that, despite having the web site available, too few people are aware of what is happening in the project at any time, so we decided to publish newsletters periodically to publicize the status of the project. We plan to issue newsletters about every 2 months, though this will depend on progress. If you would like to receive newsletters as soon as they are published please email us at <mailto:admin@fireandblast.com> and ask to be added to the distribution.

Next issue

Despite the previous paragraph saying newsletters will be about bi-monthly, we will publish *newsletter 2* almost immediately – *newsletter 2* will feature the "Rough annotated draft" of Part 2 and the workshop we recently held to discuss the draft and provide guidance for the creation of the real draft Part 2.