



Session1D

Collision Course: Using Data to Close the Gaps Between Fire Protection Engineering & Fire Code Enforcement

The fire protection engineering and the fire code enforcement fields have long existed in silos largely closed off from one another and unable to effectively share information between them—but these days are changing. Increasingly, the intersection point is data. Where data has long been foundational for fire protection engineering calculations, assumptions, and education, data has only recently begun to seriously factor into the fire service and fire code enforcement operations. This presentation will highlight several areas where data has become the universal language between FPEs and Fire Marshals: 1) Recent efforts to build fire risk prediction models to prioritize fire code enforcement; 2) efforts to standardize Community Risk Reduction (CRR) data across fire services; and efforts to standardize Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance (ITM) data across all the different user groups.



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Dr. Matt Hinds-Aldrich, or "Dr Matt", works for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) leading the development of a new national fire data system and a wider effort to facilitate and improve how fire departments across the country and globe collect, analyze and use data to focus their efforts, improve their operations, and demonstrate their value. As a qualitative researcher who accidentally became the "data guy", Dr. Matt's interest in data is primarily focused upon helping fire departments understand and navigate the parallel paradigm shifts transforming the fire service: community risk reduction and performance management.

Dr. Matt previously worked for Atlanta Fire Rescue Department as a Senior Management Analyst and at Anna Maria College as an Assistant Professor and interim Fire Science Program Director. His Ph.D. research at the University of Kent (England) focused upon occupational culture and specifically the much lauded and lambasted concept of firefighter culture. He has researched and written extensively upon the concept of behavioral economics in public safety and the unfortunate topic of firefighters arrested for setting fires. His work has appeared in several national and international publications and has been presented at major conferences across the US and Britain.

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