



Session 2D:

Tall Timber Buildings: A US Perspective

Introduction: In 2015 the NFPA Fire Research Foundation paneled a Technical Committee to review issues concerning the expanded use of Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) in high-rise buildings. Following the First Phase literature review, NFPA FRF continued with a Phase Two, in partnership with the NRC, to conduct live-fire tests at NIST to understand the contribution of CLT to the fuel-load.

In early 2016, the ICC Board of Directors approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to explore the science of tall wood buildings with their scope being to investigate the feasibility of and act to develop code changes for tall wood buildings. The committee developed its own test scenario(s) to substantiate any code change proposals (testing was carried out at ATF labs); and worked to develop a comprehensive set of code changes for consideration during the code development process. The intensive research performed by the Committee was submitted along with the resulting code proposals developed by Committee. All the Tall Mass Timber Building proposals were approved in January of 2019 and will appear in the 2021 edition of the International Building Code and the 2021 International Fire Code.

Course Description: The proposed session will review current activities and efforts in the United States where the Code Development Committee recently approved buildings up to eighteen stories. We will review current testing, performance of structural components and the various concerns. We will also attempt to establish a consensus pathway forward that provides for design flexibility and occupant and fire fighter safety.

Sean DeCrane

Manager Industry Relations

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Sean DeCrane retired as a 25+ year veteran of the Cleveland Division of Fire. He served in various roles including the Director of Training and Chief of Operations retiring as a Battalion Chief. Sean is currently the Manager of Industry Relations for the Underwriters Laboratories Building Life Safety, Security and Technologies Division. He is responsible for engaging with various industry organizations with a focus on the international fire service including Asia, Australia, Europe and the United Kingdom.

Sean has been involved in the research at Underwriters Laboratories and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He served on the UL Fire Council and is a member of the UL Fire Fighter Safety Research Institute's Advisory Board.

Chief DeCrane also represented the International Association of Fire Fighters in the International Code Council process and has served on the 2009, 2012, 2105 and 2018 Fire Code Developing Committee and as Chair for 2015 and 2018. Sean served on the NFPA 1 Technical Advisory Panel, NFPA Research Foundation on Tall Wood Buildings and is serving as the Chair of the Fire Test Work Group for the ICC Tall Wood Building Ad Hoc Committee.

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