



Session 4B:

Navigation the “New Normal” COVID-19 Social Distancing Simulation for Public Spaces & Buildings

As we continue to re-open workplaces and public facilities, we are challenged to navigate the new normal and re-enter potentially densely populated, highly-social environments such as offices, malls, theaters, stadia and other venues. Pedestrian Simulation Modeling offers a potential means to evaluate our re-entry practices, using engineering analysis to confirm acceptable physical and social distancing management procedures are in place. This digital due diligence involves replicating the built environment and developing digital models to simulate best practices like crowd spacing control, screening, one-way directional flow and other measures to satisfy operational needs and demonstrate distancing practices are feasible and appropriate.



Robert Gerard, PE
Sr. Fire Protection Engineer
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With more than a decade of experience working in countries around the world, including the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom, Robert brings an international perspective focused on performance-based design to the US regulatory environment. His work includes major mixed-use buildings, hotels, resort casinos, transportation centers, museums, high-rises, and office buildings, as well as numerous publications and educational seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Many of Robert's projects have involved complex fire safety issues, often utilizing advanced CFD modeling, peer review teams, and engagement with approval authorities. Robert's specialties include smoke control design and structural optimization utilizing state-of-the-art fire and smoke modeling software to demonstrate safety through alternative building design approaches. His experience with fire performance and safety in mass timber structures has made him an

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