

Winter & Fire Safety

Winter is now here – bring on those beautiful frosty mornings we can have and I hope the foggy Waikato days stay away!! With the use of heaters and fires over winter it is especially important to check all of your smoke detectors are clean and have working batteries.

CHRISTCHURCH

I am sure that you, like the rest of NZ and the world, have been keeping up with the latest news on the Christchurch Earthquake. It is unbelievable and very sad to see such a beautiful city in ruins. I am sure you are like me and your thoughts are with families and friends who live there and are struggling to come to terms with what has happened. Christchurch is my hometown and I am very thankful and lucky that my friends and family are all safe and well.



Hello and welcome to the fourth edition of Burning Issues for our clients, friends and others. If you have any questions or comments about anything you read in here please feel free to contact us.

This newsletter was meant to get out last year but it was a very busy year and work took priority unfortunately. 2010 was a good year for OnFire Consulting with a great deal of work from both new and existing clients and a few changes around the office. I will talk about a few of my projects later in this newsletter which have provided us with some interesting and varied challenges.

OnFire Consulting is now 6 years old – I know its such an aged old saying but time sure has flown quickly! Once again I would like to thank all of my clients – both existing and new. The referrals and repeat business is especially appreciated. Our work load remains steady and has not slowed down significantly despite the recession.

ON SITE ISSUES - PENETRATIONS

I am often asked to visit site to inspect buildings where I have undertaken the fire engineering design. One of the most common problems I see is the incorrect fire rating and installation of penetrations through smoke and fire rated construction. It is especially important that any penetration through fire or smoke rated construction is rated, installed and maintained appropriately. It is not OK just to use any old fire rated sealant with any type of penetration. Each type of penetration (cable, metal pipe, plastic pipe etc..) has different solutions depending on the substrate (concrete, hollow construction etc..) it goes

this issue

Penetrations **P.1**

Changing Legislation **P.1**

FPA Conference **P.2**

Alphabet Soup **P.2**

Project Review **P.2**

through. If the penetration is through a GIB® wall there is a helpful guide that is put out by Winstone Wallboards entitled – Penetrations in GIB® Fire Rated Systems. If the construction isn't through GIB® then talk to a company who specialises in rating of penetrations for the best solution for your particular situation. This is definitely not a 'one size fits all' type of construction issue.

CHANGING LEGISLATION

For the past year or so I have been working with the Department of Building and Housing to help re-write the Acceptable Solution for Fire C/AS1. The new Acceptable Solution is a simplified version of what we currently have and it is intended that these can be used by people other than just fire engineers.

Alongside this work the Department have also been writing a new Building Code and Verification Method for fire. All of these documents came out for consultation last year and the many comments that were received are currently being reviewed and worked on. Where a building design feature or solution doesn't work well in the Acceptable Solution or cost efficiencies can be gained with specific design the Verification Method can be used by fire engineers to prove compliance with the building code.

The new documents, when released, will give us a more consistent way throughout the country in which fire engineering is undertaken and should result in fewer issues through Building Consent and Peer Review.

PEOPLE UPDATE

Prior to Xmas saw some changes within OnFire Consulting. David my husband has joined the team full time. David has extensive building industry experience and knowledge gained both here in NZ and the UK.

Katrina Easton joined the team in November as our Office Manager. If you ever have any queries regarding accounts, fees etc.. then Katrina is your woman! Katrina is married to Grant, a local builder in Te Awamutu and they have two gorgeous girls, Jenna aged 6yrs and Renee aged 4yrs.

Well it wouldn't be an OnFire newsletter without news of Bobby and Charlotte! Our beautiful twins are now 3 years old – once again I have to say it – time sure has flown quickly! They are fantastic children and as you can probably imagine a fantastic help around the office.....



FPA CONFERENCE

Late last year I was lucky enough to go to the FPA Conference in both Christchurch and Surfers Paradise to present my paper titled: Fire in a hospital – what really happens. My paper and presentation was very well received.

ALPHABET SOUP

I often get asked what all the letters after my name mean, I can assure you it's not an alphabet soup and they all do mean something.....

BE Hons (CAPE)

Bachelor in Chemical and Process Engineering

ME Dist. (Fire)

Masters in Fire Engineering with Distinction

MIPENZ

Professional Member of the Institution of Professional Engineers NZ

CPEng

Chartered Professional Engineer - this assesses my competence as a fire engineer every 5 years

MSFPE

Professional Member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers USA

Project Review

A selection of current and recent projects throughout New Zealand.

PROJECT REVIEW

I thought I would highlight some past and present projects that we have been working on recently. We are fortunate with the range and variety of projects we get involved in with our many different clients.

- Consulting to the Department of Building and Housing on determinations involving fire
- Helping the Department of Building and Housing re-write the Acceptable Solutions for fire
- Te Awa Mall – The Base, Hamilton
- Centre Place Mall Redevelopment, Hamilton
- Sky TV – various fitout projects for the Rugby World Cup, Auckland
- Rangiora Dementia Project, Putaruru
- Whitby Village Estate
- Various Schools that are upgrading their facilities
- Various NZFS Fire Stations that are undergoing seismic upgrades
- The new Waikato Clinical Centre Peer Review, Waikato Hospital
- Atawhai Assisi Resthome new wings, Hamilton
- The Salvation Army London Street Redevelopment, Hamilton

This Month's Recipe

Creamy Bacon & Mushroom Penne

This is another of my family's favourites. Its quick and easy to prepare and goes down a real treat!

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 4 rashers of bacon sliced into pieces
- 200g button mushrooms sliced
- 200g cream cheese
- A splash or two of white wine
- 4 spring onions sliced
- 2 tbs grated parmesan cheese
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 400g penne, cooked, drained & kept warm

Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the bacon and mushrooms for 4-5 minutes or until softened. Add the cream cheese, spring onions, parmesan and pepper. Stir until the cream cheese has melted in, add the white wine as necessary to thin the mixture. Stir until smooth and then add in the pasta and simmer for 2-3 minutes or until the pasta is well heated. Serve with a sprinkle of parmesan on top. ENJOY!!!