



Northern Ireland  
**Safety Group**  
Promoting Occupational  
**Safety & Health**

MONTHLY MEETING

*'Don't wait  
'til you meet  
this pair'*

## Life or Death: Human Behaviour in Fire

Presentation by Dr. Nigel McConnell  
Lecturer in Human Behaviour in Fire  
The Institute for Fire Safety Engineering  
Research and Technology (FireSERT), at  
Ulster University.

Loss of life in fires can often be attributed to the decision making and actions of people prior to, and/or during, the fire.

During this meeting Dr. McConnell will explore the understanding of the behaviours of both individuals and groups in a fire.

This knowledge gained helps to design buildings and systems that increase the chances of survival during fire.

With reference to previous disasters and ongoing research, Dr McConnell will explore our understanding of:-

- how and why we might behave in a particular manner,
- whether our behaviour is predictable and
- how current understanding of people behaviour can influence the design of buildings and create fire safety awareness for all in our community in an effort to reduce fire deaths.

Thanks to Belfast International Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Service for providing these photos taken in their training rig.

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Nigel McConnell  
**VENUE:** Lecture Theatre 09F09  
Ulster University, Shore Road  
Newtownabbey, BT37 0QB  
**DATE:** Thurs 15th August 2019  
**TIME:** 2.15 for 2.30pm (finish 4.00pm)  
**TO BOOK**

online at [www.nisg.org.uk](http://www.nisg.org.uk)

or email [info@nisg.org.uk](mailto:info@nisg.org.uk)

*See back of flyer for parking and directions*

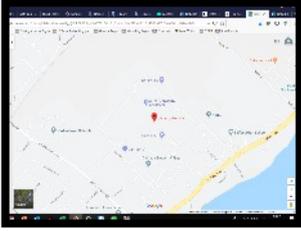


Fire Safety Engineering  
Research and Technology  
Centre (FireSERT)

*Like all NI Safety Group meetings this  
meeting is*

**FREE**

*And as always everyone is welcome  
whether a NI Safety Group member or not.*



### **PARKING & DIRECTIONS**

There are numerous car parks around the Jordanstown campus.  
Parking is charged with a tariff being £1.20 for 3 hours/£1.50 for 4 hours.

### **VENUE LOCATION**

Enter the University building at the main reception (signposted).  
Go up to the main Concourse.  
Turn LEFT when on the main concourse.  
Tea/coffee is being served in the main concourse beside the PANGO Cafe

The meeting is in lecture theatre 09F09.  
This is near to the tea/coffee location.



### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY**

Nigel McConnell is a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society, a Lecturer and member of the Fire Safety Engineering Research Technology (FireSERT) research group at the University of Ulster, working in the area of human behaviour and fire.

His PhD focused on the Neurobehavioural (e.g. cognition and post-fire trauma) effects of exposure to fire toxins such as carbon monoxide and the Psychological impact of being involved in an accidental dwelling fire.

Nigel has published work in relation to the pre-movement times and factors influencing behaviour of occupants in 9/11 World Trade centre attacks. His work on the 9/11 World Trade centre attacks also included researching the behaviours and evacuation experiences of evacuees with self-designated mobility impairments.

His research has focuses on people with mobility impairments in relation to knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in the evacuation of multi-storey buildings.

Nigel has been guest a speaker at international conferences, reviewer for research funding and guest reviewer for reputable international journals in the area of human behaviour in fire.

He has had long term collaboration with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and is a member of a human factors in emergency research group organized by the Italian National Fire Corps.

Nigel is also an advisor to charities in relation to research strategies and statistical analyses.