

Prof Richard Walls



Title: Fire Safety Engineering Guideline for Informal Settlements – Towards practical solutions for a complex problem

Bio:

Prof Richard Walls (PhD, MSc, GDE, BScEng, BTh, PrEng, FSAICE) is the head of the Fire Engineering Research Unit at Stellenbosch University (FireSUN). His areas of research include structural fire design, informal settlement fire safety, timber in fire (CLT), full-scale fire testing, modelling, structural steel and burning things down Myth Buster style (has destroyed more than 70 full-scale homes). He works closely with local fire services developing solutions for informal settlement fire problems, and was involved in an analysis of the 1000 homes that burnt down in the 2017 Knysna Fire disaster. In 2019 the FireSUN team launched masters and PhD degree programs in fire safety engineering. In 2020 he was awarded the NSTF-South32 national prize for the Emerging Researcher of the year in South Africa, and recently was awarded the IStructE Excellence in Structural Engineering Education

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award. He is on the research advisory board for the NFPA and a member of the SABS working group for fire engineering codes.