

**Carl Pettersson** BSc Fire Safety Engineer MSc Risk Management



#### Fire Safety in Timber Buildings -A review of existing knowledge



- COST Action CA20139, Holistic design of taller timber buildings (HELEN)
- Network Fire brigades



Carl Pettersson

Brandforsk

Gävle, Sweden, City Fire 10 July 1869 13 000 people lost their homes



#### Fire resistance – temperature curve



#### Fire resistance – temperature curve





# **Exposed timber**

**Fire Safety Challenges of Tall Wood Buildings – Phase 2: Task 3 -Cross Laminated Timber Compartment Fire Tests** Fire Protection Research Foundation, the National Research Council Canada and the National Institute of Standards and Technology



Time (min)



- Geometry and ventilation
- Exposed surfaces
- Type of glue and thickness of lamellas
- Duration of fire exposure



Figure 2.Debonding – the difference between char fall-off and delamination, and failure description at the bond line



<u>Čolić</u> A. (2021) International Master of Science in Fire Safety Engineering Thesis: **Study of the char fall-off phenomenon in cross-laminated timber under fire conditions**. DOI:<u>10.13140/RG.2.2.10704.84480</u>

## **Fire spread**



#### Fire spread - facade





#### **Fire spread - External**

Exposure from mass timber compartment fires to facades Johan Sjöström, Daniel Brandon, Alastair Temple, Emil Hallberg, and Fredrik Kahl RISE Report 2021:39





#### **Durability of Reaction to Fire Performance**







**EN 16755:2017 – DRF EXT?** 

## **Fire spread - External**









#### **Fire spread - External**





#### **Exposed timber internally**

- Fire compartments
  - Penetrations
  - Openings (doors, windows, shafts)
  - Joints
- Loadbearing capacity
  - Length of fire exposure





#### **Fire spread – cavities**

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#### **Fire spread – cavities**









#### Fire spread – joints

- Movement over time.
- Document the protection during built.
- Inspect and maintain protection.





#### **Burnout?**

Structural capacity in fire of laminated timber elements in compartments with exposed timber surfaces (2019) Felix Wiesner, Luke A. Bisby, Alastair I. Bartlett, Juan P. Hidalgo, Simón Santamaria, Susan Deeny,

- Tested 90 min in according to fire curve
- Measured temperature during 330 min





#### "

For some (predominantly combustible) construction methods, compliance with building regulations alone might have little relevance to a building's insurability

**RISCAuthority UK** *Insurance challenges of massive timber construction and a possible way forward,* Revision 1.0 January 2022



#### Insurance recommendations Sweden







≥ 4 storeys	
OFFICE	RESIDENTIAL
<b>EN 12845</b> Automatic sprinkler system	<b>EN 16925</b> Residential sprinkler system

8 storeys	
OFFICE	RESIDENTIAL
<b>EN 12845</b> Automatic sprinkler system	<b>EN 16925</b> Residential sprinkler system
	EN 12845

Automatic sprinkler system

+ 16 storeys	
OFFICE	RESIDENTIAL
EN 12845	EN 12845
Automatic sprinkler system	Automatic sprinkler system





The need for fire brigade intervention may lead to extensive water damage







Figure 1: Allowable wood use in different applications for residential buildings in Europe.

#### To conclude

- Due to the potential of high consequences, it is important to reduce the possibility of both:
  - Small fires (fire spread in cavities)
  - Large fires (extended fire duration and fire spread)
- The fire behaviour is influenced by many factors.
- Reducing the fire growth and the potential involvement of timber structures in a fully developed fire is the most effective fire safety measure.



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