

EVENTS

THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL WATER MIST CONFERENCE 2021

Fire Buyer catches up exclusively with Bettina McDowell, IWMA General Manager to find out what we can expect from this year's conference

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE 20TH IWMA CONFERENCE?

The 20th International Water Mist Conference will be a major update on results of scientific work, on what has been going on over the past two years and in particular the progress of EN 14972, the European Standard. There was no conference in 2020 so there will be a lot of news about the standardisation work and also in other fields related to water mist.

What will be the biggest themes present? One of the most important topics is the EN 14972 series entitled "Fixed firefighting systems – Water Mist Systems" Part one (Design, Installation, Inspection and Maintenance) was published on 23rd December of last year which was a big step for the water mist community. We will focus on this first part but also on the other 16 parts (which are dedicated test protocols of which some are published) during a presentation which will be followed by a panel discussion. VdS will speak about the new fire test protocol series within VdS 3883 and another important topic will be collecting water mist data. The idea is to start asking for figures from 2022 onwards to then merge them to be able to depict where water mist stands in comparison to other firefighting methods.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN BENEFITS OF WATER MIST?

Water mist is an eco-friendly way to control and extinguish fires due to relatively small amount of needed water and material. Water mist reduces the heat and the oxygen, thus tackles two sides of the fire triangle. It does not harm humans, it is easy and fast to install, extend and retrofit and the cooling effect prevents re-ignition. Another point is the room-filling effect: due to the size of the droplets water mist is well distributed, fills many nooks and crevices within seconds of activation. It can be carried around with the air flow and is therefore not depending on hitting the fire directly. It is therefore able to control or extinguish even concealed fires.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BIGGEST TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN THE INDUSTRY CURRENTLY?

Eco-friendliness is definitely a big topic. Another one is protecting private homes. A big challenge is still the human factor. But there are initiatives to educate school children so that they grow up with a better understanding of fires and how to act in case of an emergency. **FB**