

REM: Advisory Group on climate-neutral, energy-efficient and sustainable buildings and cities



*REM ACTIVITIES DURING 2023 and
planned for 2024 -
Fire safety*

5th October 2023

84th session of UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management



IFSS INTERNATIONAL FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS



International Fire
Safety Standards
Coalition update

Gary Strong, Chair, RICS

*“The science of fire
knows no geographical
or political boundaries”*



International Fire Safety Standards Coalition

3m fires pa

7m injuries pa

150,000 deaths pa

US\$ 347 Billion cost pa

1-2% GDP cost globally pa

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1660729397475786754> - Charleston, USA fire video

IFSS INTERNATIONAL
FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS





International Fire Safety Standards Coalition

Record number of wildfires in 2022 & 23

1.6m* acres (1/5th size of Belgium) has burned in Europe

Fires have destroyed buildings and forced evac – Rhodes, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, UK, USA (Hawaii), Australia, etc

* European Forest Fire Information Service

IFSS INTERNATIONAL
FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS





New & emerging fire challenges;

Climate change – wildfires

Lithium-ion battery fires

Pollution – from water run-off creating environmental damage

Growth of vertical urbanism (tall towers)

IFSS INTERNATIONAL
FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS



International fire safety standards coalition @ UNECE



The International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition

- Launched in July 2018 at the UN Geneva
- Aim to raise standards in fire safety
- Bring greater consistency globally
- Capacity building

Setting minimum levels of fire safety, regulatory frameworks and professionalism across the world.

See: <https://ifss-coalition.org/>

International fire safety standards coalition grows!

The International Fire Safety Standards (IFSS) Coalition continues to grow -

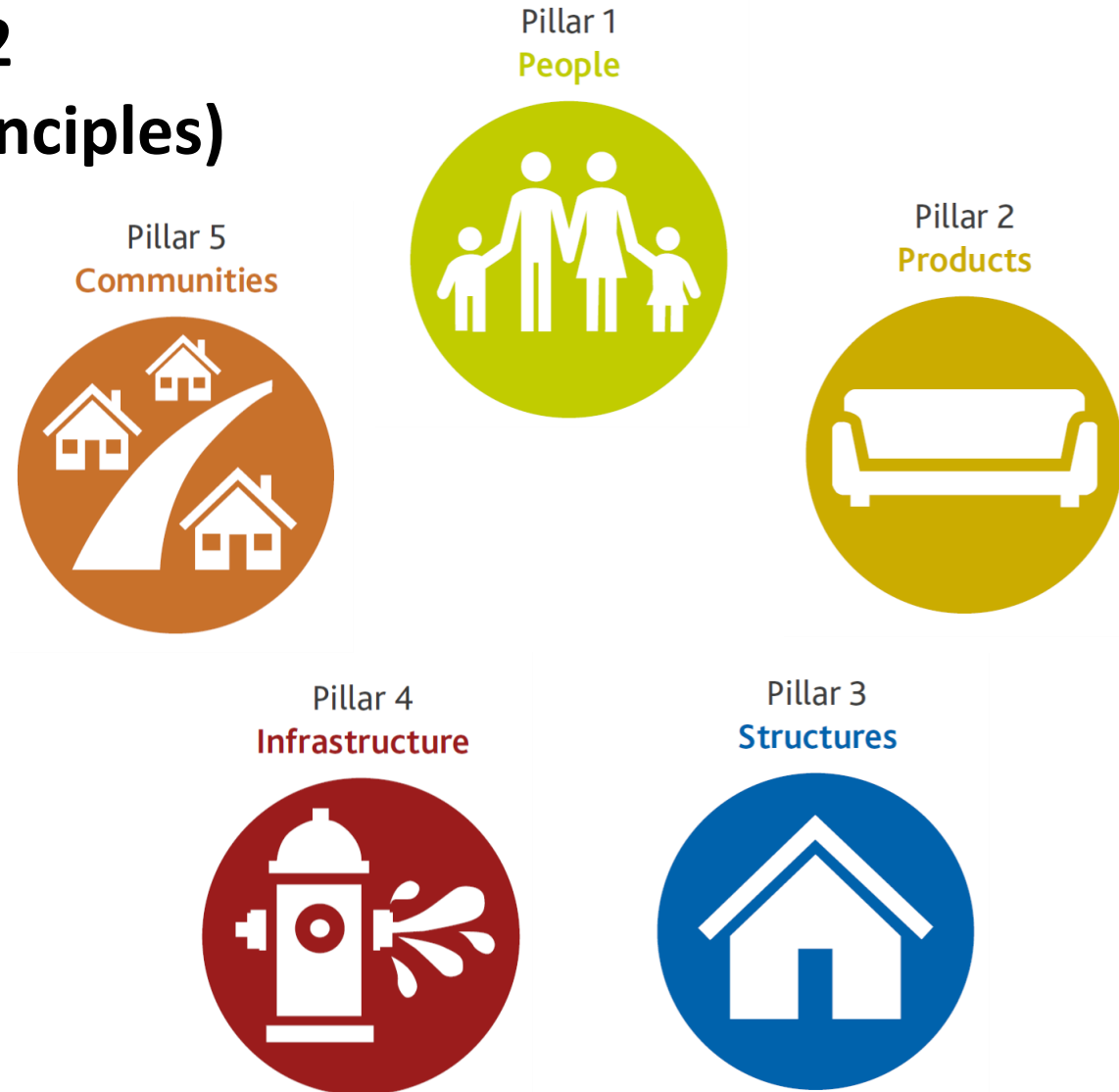
- **Over 100+ organisations inc Supporters**
- **New members from Latin America – 15 countries, 25 orgs, 700 companies represented by [LATAM PCI](#)**
- **Fire Safety Weeks – USA (9th Oct), Europe (13th Nov), S.America (8th Oct)**
- **UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13th Oct)**

See: <https://ifss-coalition.org/>

Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032 (incorporating IFSS Standard: Common Principles)

Goal – Capacity building

- To stabilise and then reduce the forecast level of fire fatalities, injuries, economic cost and environmental impact of fire around the world by 2032 as global population increases.



International Fire Safety Standards: Common Principles

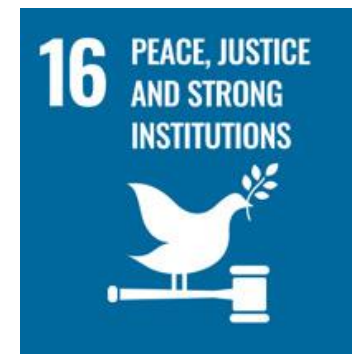
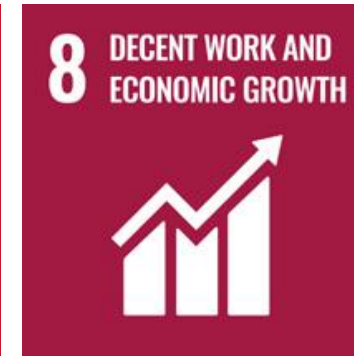
Safe Buildings Save Lives

Fire threatens sustainability

UN Sustainable Development Goals

Building trust, confidence & capability

Fire safety capacity building relates to UN sustainable development goals 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17





International Fire Safety Standards Coalition
Safe Buildings Save Lives

IFSS INTERNATIONAL
FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS

UNECE

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Standards/UNECE
International Fire Safety Standards October 2020](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Standards/UNECE_International_Fire_Safety_Standards_October_2020)

UN Department of Safety and Security



UNECE Regional Action Plan 2030 / IFSS Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032 Plan

Fire safety relates to the challenges of achieving sustainable housing & urban development

Capacity building (which includes training, education, competence, accreditation, public awareness and fund raising) is part of the [Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032 Plan](#)

Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing

Fire safety relates to the challenges of achieving decent, adequate, affordable and healthy housing & urban development

Capacity building (which includes training, education, competence, accreditation, public awareness and funding) is part of the Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022-2032 Plan

Invitation

UNECE Committee for Urban Development, Housing and Land Management are **invited to endorse and support** the update on the **IFSS Decade of Action for Fire Safety 2022 – 2032 Plan** (which was published on 11th October 2021), and support;

- Capacity building
- Global **communications** via UN-TV, LinkedIn, Twitter
- Decade of Action Committee
- Appointment of a **UN Special Envoy for Fire Safety** at UN GA in New York
- Encourage engagement and support from local, national & regional Governments and city mayors with **Fire Safety Weeks**
- Regular annual reporting on progress.



International Fire Safety Standards Coalition
Safe Buildings Save Lives



Thank You

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