

*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 (1/5<sup>th</sup> 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

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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  
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## 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 -

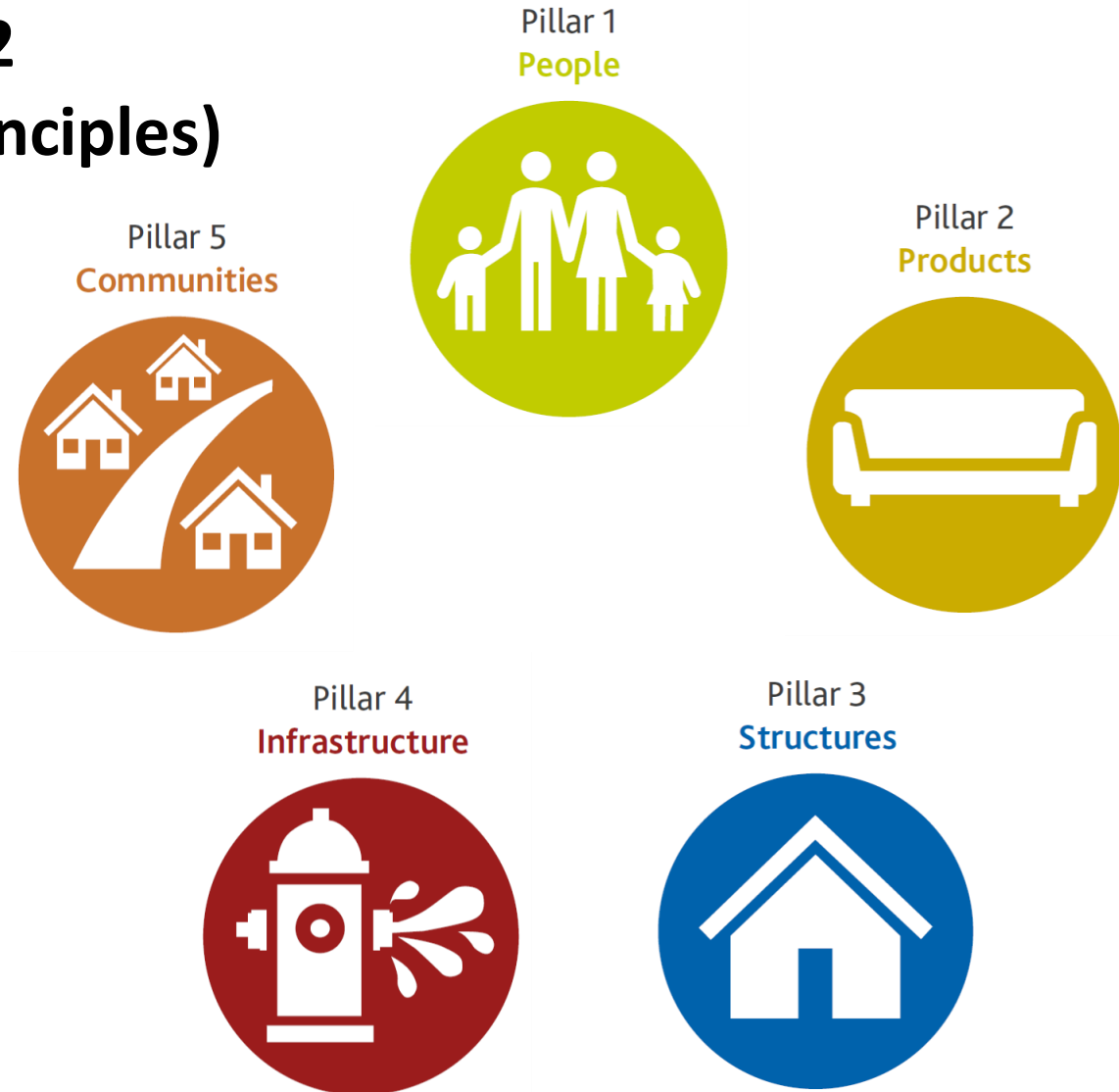
- **Over 100+ organisations inc Supporters**
- **New members from Latin America – 15 countries, 25 orgs, 700 companies represented by [LATAM PCI](#)**
- **Fire Safety Weeks – USA (9<sup>th</sup> Oct), Europe (13<sup>th</sup> Nov), S.America (8<sup>th</sup> Oct)**
- **UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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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