

# RISCAuthority at work



**Dr Jim Glockling** urges stakeholders to build on the success of the Safe Futures campaign, previews next year's RISCAuthority seminars in London and Manchester, and closes with a note on the 'sustainability equation'

I AM very pleased to be able to report that the FPA Safe Futures postcard campaign has been successful in at least getting us to the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) table to discuss the amendment of building regulations in order to address the three issues of false alarms, warehouse protection, and combustible building structures (see 'A safer future', *FRM* October 2014, pp15-17). This could only have been achieved by a significant number of people completing and returning the cards that dropped out of October's issue in support of the initiative to the minister, for which we are eternally grateful; but it must not stop there. The level of support needs reinforcing with more postcards, and strong and well evidenced cases must be prepared for each of the subject areas. This is not for the FPA and RISCAuthority alone to do; it will require extensive collaboration with all like-minded stakeholders and some intense lobbying – common sense alone is seldom enough when trying to influence government.

On the subject of engagement, the 2015 dates have been set for the RISCAuthority Seminars in London and Manchester (5 March and 4 June, respectively), and you can reserve your place from the RISCAuthority website. Places are limited to 150 seats at each venue and they do tend to go quickly, so book early. The seminar is FREE and open to RISCAuthority member company employees, and invites are extended to your key clients (subject to availability). Many members' companies prefer to organise participation centrally, so please check with your key RISCAuthority contact. Lunch, drinks and networking opportunities are provided and we will be holding many poster-style presentations around the event on key projects undertaken during 2014 for your perusal during lunch and coffee breaks, which will be appropriately manned by our resident experts.

We will be officially launching a number of new deliverables, including the 2015 version of the Insurers' Building Guide (*Building Regulations 2000: Approved Document B: Fire Safety (Volume 2) – Buildings*

*other than dwellinghouses: Incorporating Insurers' Requirements for Property Protection*), incorporating ADB and an updated GIS database that aside from fire and rescue response information will now also include security, flood, water provision and demographic data. This year, talks on hot topics determined by the RISCAuthority Members' Forum are anticipated to include:

- case studies of very large commercial fires and how structure may have contributed to the outcome
- waste recycling and insurance issues
- business continuity and supply chain loss case studies
- environment and heritage protection vs property protection
- how modern building design methods can bridge the communication gap between insurer and consulting engineers
- government and insurance
- insurance implications for technology advances

The chairman for the day will be David Williams, RISCAuthority chairman and managing director of underwriting at AXA Insurance.

Finally, last month's 'RISCAuthority at Work' article prompted a great deal of feedback and raised a few questions. Clearly there is a need for further work on understanding the 'sustainability equation' better and asking whether sustainable has to mean combustible. It is odd how quickly wood is considered sustainable on the grounds that it grows and encapsulates carbon and polystyrene (commonly associated with sustainable buildings), and is accepted because – I don't really know actually! My bin men don't take it away for recycling, so it's not a recycled product... maybe a trip to Kew is required to look out the elusive polystyrene tree ■

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