

Conferences Exhibition Diary

GAS, VAPOUR AND DUST EXPLOSION HAZARDS

Faculty of Engineering, University of Leeds,
24th to 28th March 2014

Protection, mitigation and prediction.

Further information:

www.engineering.leeds.ac.uk,

Email: cpd@engineering.leeds.ac.uk

COUNTER TERROR EXPO 2014

Olympia, London, 29th to 30th April 2014

The premier international event for the entire security sector, Government, military, law enforcement, emergency services, private sector and security services.

Further information:

www.counterterrorexpocom

email: counterterrorexpocom@clarionevents.com

IExpE AGM AND CONFERENCE 2014

Westerwood Hotel and Golf Resort,

Cumbernauld, Nr.Glasgow,

1st to 2nd May 2014

The theme of the conference is "Developing competence in explosives skills".

Further information: email:events@iexpe.org

See details on page 7.

XVIII SAFEX CONGRESS

Warsaw Marriott Hotel, Warsaw, Poland,

19th to 24th May, 2014

Further information:

secretariat@safex-international.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXPLOSIVE EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION OF SKILLS 2014

Karlskoga, Sweden, 11th to 12th June 2014

Further information:

www.euexcert.org

HILLHEAD 2014

Lafarge Tarmac's Hillhead Quarry, near

Buxton, 24th to 26th June 2014

www.hillhead.com

ORDNANCE MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES SYMPOSIUM

Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Shrivenham, 30th September to 1st October, 2014

On behalf of the Sector Skills Strategy Group (SSSSG) of the explosives Industry and Cranfield Defence and Security, the theme will be "Design for safety of ordnance, munitions and explosives and their associated facilities". There will be four strands to this theme: equipment, facilities, people and policy.

Further information:

www.symposiaatshrivenham.com

See details on page 7.

In a flash: Ben Hoge

BA (Criminal Justice) I.A.A.I CFI
CFEI MIEpE



Your age: 51

Occupation:

I am employed by ProNet Group, Inc., a leading forensic engineering firm.

Current position:

I am the lead Fire and Explosion Investigator for the firm's United States Western Region.

Responsibilities in job/work activities:

I determine the origin, cause and responsibility of fires and explosions. I advise and participate in the collection of forensic evidence at fire and explosion scenes, and provide expert testimony regarding fire investigation and explosion analysis.

Why are you involved in IExpE?

The Institute of Explosive Engineers allows me to associate with many explosives professionals from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. In my former public safety fire career, I was assigned to the department's arson bomb squad for 18 of my 24 years' service. Prior to retiring as the Chief Investigator and Bomb Squad Commander, I was certified as a bomb technician for 17 years performing basic and advanced techniques in improvised explosive device defeat while specializing in explosives safety, explosives disposal and explosives storage operations. My current position, when called for, allows me to consult and provide an array of explosive related analysis.

What are the benefits for you of the IExpE?

The ability to participate and network with numerous explosives professionals in a manner that provides education about all explosives disciplines while being updated about current explosives technological trends. I am proud to be a Member of an organization which does a superb job of communicating the needs and benefits for the safe and professional use of explosives in today's modern society.

What are your main goals in the next 10 years?

I am not a scientist, but as a former explosives handling practitioner, my goal is to continue to read and study applied research that documents the physics of explosive properties, or, a term I personally

like to describe as "The speed of energy". As Members, we are all involved in the business of using explosives energy to accomplish work in some form, and currently my job entails examining explosion scenes to determine what happened. Understanding explosives energy and the speed at which it functions is critical for both our analysis of how to use explosives for good purpose in addition to evaluating that energy when something goes wrong.

What alternative career might you have followed?

My friends know I am a cowboy at heart. I grew up in the western state of Nevada. Given the opportunity, I would have majored in agriculture instead of criminal justice and probably developed a large cow ranch operation.

Who do you most admire on the current world stage and why?

Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). She took the helm of an international organization in 2011 amid a crisis with vision and strong leadership acumen. I am always an admirer of those who believe in themselves and ultimately triumph in the face of adversity as they make the best leaders.

Who would you most like to meet from any century and why?

Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino, also known as Raphael. He was an artist and painter during the Renaissance. I studied his works in college. My favorite work of his is The School of Athens, a fresco. He lived during an enlightening time, and although he is known primarily for his sketches and paintings, his work in architecture and engineering was extraordinary for that era.

What are your favourite activities/hobbies?

Spending time with my family, western horsemanship trail riding, camping in the mountains and leather craft, which is my personal form of art expression.

What is your ideal holiday?

My wife finally convinced me to take a 10 day cruise to the Caribbean for our 20th wedding anniversary 4 years ago. I have come to enjoy the cruise vacations as there are so many different destinations to choose from and the food is just incredible.

What is your favourite type of food?

Enjoying a great cut of beef at a good Steak House.