

John Williamson Dip FM, MSc, FIFireE, FIFSM (Life).  
Managing Director – UKFireSkills Ltd

### **Professional Background: -**

British Fire & Rescue Service officer in Lancashire, Grampian and Strathclyde for almost 37 years (1967-2004) - All ranks from Firefighter to Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Divisional Commander (DO II-Aberdeen) and Senior Fire Safety Officer (DOI) Grampian Fire Brigade. Divisional Commander (SDO-Glasgow) Strathclyde Fire Brigade.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Safety Services. Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service from 1996-2004 (3 month period as Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer).

Medals: Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct and Queen's Jubilee.

Specialist fire investigator –fatal fire specialist.

Commanded the fire service attendance to the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988 (167 fatalities). Deputy Commander at the Ocean Odyssey drilling rig fatal blow-out (1 fatality) in the North Sea in 1988.

Fire Service Commander at the Chinook helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre in 1994, which killed 29 people and included anti-terrorism specialists from the RUC, SAS and other Government agencies.

Attended Twin Towers ‘Ground Zero’, New York City with New York Fire Department personnel, (FDNY) the week following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre. Represented the Chief Fire Officer's Association (CFOA) at the memorial service at the Yankee Stadium.

**UK Fire Skills Ltd** consultancy work includes:

- Expert witness for the courts, legal profession, police and fire & rescue service
- Fire & arson (wilful fire raising in Scotland) investigation of origin & cause and related training
- Homicidal and suicidal applications of fire
- Use of fire as a weapon/cover of crime
- Fatal fires, interpretation of destruction and/or damage of human bodies by fire
- UKAS accredited Fire Risk Assessments
- IFSM accredited Fire Awareness training.
- Fire Risk Assessment training.
- Fire safety
- Fire related litigation
- Hazards
- Major disaster training

Considerable specialist work in the areas of fire investigation and hazardous substances. Lectured extensively on these subjects including two co-lectures with US specialist John DeHann on fatal fires.

Current visiting lecturer in fire investigation (full & part-time MSc courses) - University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). External adviser to University of Central Lancashire.  
Visiting lecturer in Fire Studies - Leeds Metropolitan University.  
Dissertation adviser to Leeds Metropolitan University.

Registered as an expert advisor to the National Operations Faculty at Bramshill on fire/arson investigation with particular reference to fatal fires and fire related homicide.  
Member of the UK Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.  
Member of the Lancashire Partnership against Crime (LANPAC) based at Lancashire Constabulary HQ.

Past-President of the North-Western Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Presented evidence in Court in Scotland, England and the Republic of Ireland.

Expert witness in an appeal case at the Royal Courts of Justice involving multiple murders.  
Consultant in multiple fire death in Istanbul.

Consultant in suspected multiple homicidal fire in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei.  
Consulted by British police forces and British fire & rescue services regarding accidental & homicidal fire deaths.

Fire Investigation work in New York City with Russo Consultancy.

Fire Investigation – Necker Island (Virgin), British Virgin Islands, 2011.

Fire risk assessment and staff training - Necker Island (Virgin), British Virgin Islands, 2013.

Fire Investigation – Multi-million pound industrial fire, West Midlands – 2012.

Multiple fatal fire, Criminal case, Republic of Ireland 2013.

Coroner's Court, Republic of Ireland 2014.

Published numerous papers on fire investigation issues in various fire related journals. Co-authored paper with a consultant Plastic Surgeon on fire burn injuries, which was published in the national Burns Journal in 2002.

Presented two-day anti-terrorism preparation seminar in Brunei Darussalam in late 2003.

Presented Fire Investigation training courses to forensic scientists and specialist fire investigation officers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 2006 & 2007.

Presented Fire Investigation training for Mumbai (Bombay) Fire & Rescue Service, India in 2008.

Presented paper on Fatal Fire Investigation at Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine February 2008.

Written and marked the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) Paper 8, Fire Investigation ('Member') examination for many years until 2006.

Board member and editor of worldwide Journal of Forensic Medicine. Fire related matters and scientific paper and book reviews. Paper published on Fatal Fires won annual 'best paper' prize 2003.

UKAS Accredited Fire Risk Assessor 2014-15.

Institute of Fire Safety Managers (IFSM) Nationally Accredited Fire Risk Assessor Register 2014-15.

Current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (enhanced) carried out.

### **Professional and Academic Qualifications:**

- All statutory (past) Fire Service promotion examinations.
- Institution of Fire Engineers-Graduate - GradIFire E 1974.
- Institution of Fire Engineers-Member - MIFireE 1991.
- Institution of Fire Engineers-Fellow - FIFireE 1999.
- Institute of Fire Safety Managers-Fellow - FIFSM 2006.
- Institute of Fire Safety Managers- Life Fellow FIFSM (Life) 2012.
- Post Graduate Diploma (Dip FM) in Forensic Medicine, Glasgow University-1995.
- Master of Science, (MSc) University of Central Lancashire-2001-2004. Thesis title: - Arson: The Homicidal and Suicidal Applications of fire.