

A capital city on the rise

London Fire Brigade
Assistant Commissioner, Danielle Cotton

Fire Safety Asia Conference, 10 -12 September 2014

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LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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London Fire Brigade Assistant Commissioner, Danielle Cotton will address the Fire Safety Asia Conference 2014 to share her knowledge and experience in one of the largest, and most successful fire and rescue services in the world.

London Fire Brigade serves a growing population of over 8.3million people. From the financial district in the City to its sprawling suburbs, London is one of the most diverse capital cities in the world and a constantly changing environment.

In her presentation 'A capital city on the rise' the Assistant Commissioner will share the current challenges of providing a fire and rescue service for London. She will discuss the political concerns and public views on issues ranging from London's growing population to the constantly developing landscape and infrastructure.

After providing an insight into how the London Fire Brigade is delivering services in 2014, the Assistant Commissioner will discuss the programmes underway which will manage and develop resources, including how today, the Brigade is training the firefighters of tomorrow.

The presentation will also cover what London Fire Brigade is doing to remain prepared to respond to new threats and impacts such as the severe floods that caused widespread disruption across the UK in January 2014. The Assistant Commissioner will elaborate on actions taken by the Brigade, locally and nationally, to bring events under control.

In partnership with the Metropolitan Police and other London resilience partners, the London Fire Brigade has experience of preparing for, and responding to major and catastrophic incidents. Assistant Commissioner Cotton has herself been at the forefront of this work having a prominent and public role within the Brigade in her career, which began in 1988. She had first hand experience on the front line at the Clapham Rail disaster, was the lead operational officer at the Cutty Sark Fire in 2007 and led the response to a fire requiring 40 fire engines just 10km from the Olympic Games closing ceremony in 2012. These events have placed her in a unique position to understand the impact of major incidents, and the importance of being a part of a collaborative, and constantly tested multi-agency team. In her presentation Assistant Commissioner Cotton will explain how the London Fire Brigade has continued to play a leading role within the capital and on the world stage.

As a city on the rise, the presentation will tackle the issue of fire engineering, especially within tall buildings which are increasingly misunderstood as a higher fire safety risk than low rise buildings. With building developments changing the face of London, the Assistant Commissioner will set out what the London Fire Brigade is doing not just to improve fire safety and but also to educate and, where necessary, reassure the public.

Finally delegates will be given an insight into how the London Fire Brigade is striving to stay ahead by using the most effective communication tools and new technology, while at the same time considering the environmental impact of their resources. During the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, London Fire Brigade introduced smaller vehicles to its fleet of immediate response vehicles, but the BMW Mini Countryman was just the beginning. The Assistant Commissioner will outline why now it is important for the London Fire Brigade to consider the vehicles and equipment it is going to need in the future.

8 September 2014