



**SFPE Subcommittee on Research & Innovation**  
**Roadmap Working Group – Meeting Report**  
**February 28, 2017**

**Present:** Amanda Kimball (Group Leader), Adam Barowy, Al Condello, Luca Fiorentini, Jason Floyd, Bryan Hoskins, Gavin Horn, Aixi Zhou and Chris Jelenewicz (Staff).

**The following was discussed:**

1. **Review Strawman Matrix** – Feedback from both workshops recommended the roadmap be displayed in some sort of a matrix. The working group reviewed a “Strawman” for a potential matrix. The vertical axis of the matrix included the major threads that the road map should focus on: Human Behavior, Building Fires, Sustainability, Fire Service Fire Dynamics, Fire Safety Systems, and Non-building Fires. The horizontal axis of the matrix will focus on data, tools, applications, and methods.

It was noted that the “Strawman” is a draft that the working group could build-on based on the analysis of the data from the survey and the workshops. The working group agreed that the roadmap will be based on the presented “strawman.”

2. **Format for Roadmap** – There was a discussion about how the roadmap will be presented. An example of a graphical roadmap that was developed by BRANZ in New Zealand was reviewed. The working group agreed that the roadmap should be presented as a graphic. However, it was suggested there may be a need for some sort of report to provide background information to the user if needed.

The working group agreed the graphic roadmap should provide a high-level of detail that would identify gaps in the research, but should not get into the weeds.

3. **Analysis of Data** – Data from the Denver workshop and the member survey was discussed.

Bryan summarized data from the Denver workshop. He reiterated that the workshop attendees liked the idea of representing the roadmap as a matrix. He also indicated that a group from this workshop looked at the “structures” category and recommended it be called “Building Fires.”

Based on the discussion from the Denver workshop it was agreed that the topics of structural fires and non-structural fires would be changed to building fires and non-building fires.

Adam presented a chart that summarized the data from survey Question 1 (see attached spreadsheet). He indicated that some of the data would not go into a main category but more as a sub-category. As such, the working group should be using this data as it moves forward. Also, based on a review of the data, it was noted that some new potential topics emerged such as vehicle fires, fire investigations, and interface w/ security. Additionally, a few respondents indicated that the name of the wildland fire topic should be changed to wildland urban interface (WUI).

Based on the discussion related to Question 1 from the survey, the working group agreed to add forensic/fire investigations as a thread to the matrix. Additionally, a new topic for vehicle fires was added to the list of topics and would be part of the theme non-building fires.

Jason reported on the responses to Question 3 from the survey (see attached document). It was noted that several survey respondents indicated the need for collaboration between the research community and to those who practice fire protection engineering. They also suggested that the roadmap focus on research that focuses on practical applications. The respondents also indicated the need to focus on research related to the testing & reliability of fire protection systems.

It was agreed that the issue of testing & reliability of fire protection systems would be part of the fire safety systems thread.

4. **Assignments/Moving Forward** – Based on these discussions, the straw-man matrix was updated (see attached). Additionally, working group members were asked to volunteer to work on the individual themes that are outlined in the matrix. The assigned members were asked to outline a list of topics/sub-topics that would fall into their assigned thread and describe how this information would fit into the matrix. The following is the list of assignments:

Human Behavior – Bryan Hoskins  
Fire Service -- Gavin Horn  
Fire Safety Systems -- ?  
Building Fires – Aixi Zhou  
Non-building Fires – Adam Barowy  
Fire Dynamics -- Jason Floyd  
Resiliency – Amanda  
Fire investigations – Al Condello and Luca Fiorentini

CJ will recruit someone from the subcommittee to work on the fire safety systems and ask other members of the subcommittee to assist with the themes.

5. **Next Meeting** – Those assigned to a specific theme listed above were asked to send a draft outline to CJ before April 31 and be prepared to report back at the next working group meeting that will be held on April 6 at 4pm US Eastern Time (-05:00 GMT).

**End of Report**