

Dr Stuart J Hawksworth
Head of Centre for Energy and Major Hazards
Health and Safety Executive, UK.



Dr Stuart Hawksworth has worked in the area of Safety for 25 years, fulfilling a number of technical and oversight roles at the Health and Safety Executive's Laboratory in Buxton in the UK. These roles include creating and managing the Centre for Energy and Major Hazards, made up of 70 expert scientist and engineers working in the area of risk management, fire, explosion and process safety. Since 2014, he has held a strategic oversight role for this Centre, developing its technical and commercial capabilities. During his career he has also led a number of incident investigations, including the investigation of the ICL plastics incident in 2004, which resulted in 10 deaths, subsequently giving evidence to the public enquiry, and subsequent reshaping of the regulations and control of risks associated with underground gas pipework.

In the area of Hydrogen Safety he has led and participated in a range of programmes, covering hydrogen vehicle refuelling hazards (including a 1000bar experimental refuelling facility) used to perform experimental work for oil companies, UK Government, gas supply companies and European funded projects including HySafe NOE, Hyper STREP, and HyApproval. As one of the original participants in HySafe, he lead the ignition and jet fire work package which successfully led an international initiative to address the problem of spontaneous ignition of hydrogen leaks. He was the technical author and coordinator of the Hyper project, developing the Permitting Guidance Handbook for Fuel Cell Systems, which is widely used by industry. In addition to European activities, he has also led a number of national activities, supporting the UK gas industry, and other programmes.

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