

4th Workshop on Railway Operation for Safety and Reliability  
17 October 2020

Title : Several points to watch on fire hazards of railway systems

W.K. Chow JP FHKEng  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract :

Railway systems have been developed rapidly in places with quick economic growth, such as the Asia-Oceania regions. However, the fire safety aspects have not been studied thoroughly, particularly those guidelines developed 20 years ago, say in using low design fire. There are potential challenges on new fire hazards, particularly under crowded seasons with passengers carrying more luggage. In this presentation, new fire hazards of the railway systems will be presented along three areas, train cars, tunnels and big railway terminals. Many arson fires in stations have been reported since 2019 and appropriate fire safety management scheme should be worked out. Green firefighting appears difficult to be implemented under such challenges.

Author :

Professor W.K. Chow is Emeritus Professor of Architectural Science and Fire Engineering of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is the President of the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology since 2007; Chair of Asia-Oceania Chapters Coordinating Group, Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) since 2015; and the SFPE Board of Directors from 2016 to 2019. He is a Justice of the Peace, and a Fellow of Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences. He was awarded the Lifetime Contribution Award by the Asia-Oceania Association for Fire Science and Technology in 2015; and Gold Medal by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers in 2018.

RCCityU20-1b