

Professor Kenneth N. Palmer
External Consultant

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Qualifications

BA & MA Natural Sciences, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge
C.Chem FRSC
CEng, F Energy Inst
FInst Fire Engineers

Affiliations

Loss Prevention Panel of the Institution of Chemical Engineers
Energy Institute Distribution and Marketing Safety Committee
1994 Franklin Medallist of IChemE
Visiting Professor in Chemistry at UMIST, 1986-1992

Nationality

British

Current Position at CWA

External Consultant. Senior Fire & Explosion expert.

Closely associated with the practice for over 15 years, responsible for fire and explosion incident investigation, combustion and blast phenomena, loss prevention and safety studies covering a wide range of industrial facilities and plant, storage facilities and vessels, expert advice on all aspects of fire causation and smoke spread, fire protection and fire fighting.

Has conducted numerous fire incidents, both shipboard and on-shore. Recent casework includes self heating of coal, investigation of fires in various cargoes, including wheat, cotton, fish meal, cocoa beans, oil seeds, personnel injury due to LPG fire, investigation of engine room fires, advice on dangerous goods handling etc. Professor Palmer is well versed in the disciplines and procedures for forensic investigation of fire and explosion incidents and the preparation of expert evidence for litigation.

Specific Expertise and Experience

Active in the British Section of the Combustion Institute.

Revision of EI IP Safety Codes on Bitumen and on Fire Precautions at petroleum refineries and bulk storage installations.

Revision of I Chem E Training package on fires and explosions

Supervision of post-graduate courses on fire safety matters at UMIST, Manchester, and in Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

Specialist course lecturer for many years on the fire and explosion hazards at Bradford and Leeds Universities.

External Examiner for University degrees in:

DSc Birmingham

DTech Trondheim

PhD Leeds, Sheffield, Strathclyde, Surrey and University College London

Summary of Previous Employment

Joined the Fire Research Station, Borehamwood in 1949 and in subsequent years carried out research into the burning of solids, including the burning of powders, gas and dust explosions, the detection and control of fires.

In 1973 became Head of the Fire Protection Division, being responsible for the work of 24 scientific staff plus Research Associates sponsored by the industry.

In 1983 was appointed Director of the Fire Research Station, being directly responsible for the work of 55 scientific staff and an equal number of support staff.

The research of the Fire Research Station covers a very wide range, reflecting the widespread problems of fire in national life. The subjects include the ignition, growth and extinguishing of fires, the reaction of people to fire, statistical and sociological aspects.

Publications

Author of "Dust Explosions and Fires" (Chapman and Hall, London 1973).

Ken is also the author of more than 60 technical papers and reports published during his career.

Continuing with lecturing and the writing of articles on combustion topics.