

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Eur Ing** - Registered with the Fédération Européen d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieur as a practising engineer in Europe
- BSc** - Bachelor of Science (2i) 1985  
Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology
- FSSocDip** - Forensic Science Society Diploma in Fire Investigation
- CEng** - Registered with the Engineering Council as a practicing Chartered Engineer in the UK
- MIEE** - Corporate Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers
- MIFireE** - Member of the Institution of Fire Engineers
- MFSSoc** - Member of the Forensic Science Society

### EXPERIENCE

#### *Geoffrey Hunt & Partners, Consulting Engineers & Scientists*

Partner – 2010 to present  
Associate Forensic Engineer - 2005 to 2010

Mike's areas of expertise include:

- investigating the origin, cause and spread of fires and explosions;

- investigation of electrical defects and failures - particular expertise in fires of electrical origin;
- leading multi-disciplinary teams of experts in the investigation of large or technically complex losses (such as architects, security experts, chemical analysts);
- appraisal of employer and contractor compliance with safe working practices including gas and electrical safety, hot work and the cleaning of industrial kitchen extract ductwork;
- assessment of Building Regulations compliance and the effectiveness/installation quality of structural fire protection measures including cavity barriers/closers and fire compartmentation;
- provision of technical advice in product recalls and in the pursuit and defence of subrogated Product Liability claims;
- preparation of fire investigation/forensic reports for use by Insurers, Loss Adjusters and Solicitors in Civil and Criminal litigation and the defence of Health & Safety Executive Prosecutions;
- attending Court to give expert evidence - experience of giving evidence on both sides of Criminal and Civil Courts and assisting in mediations.

Mike has undertaken over 1600 forensic investigations dealing with the cause and spread of fires in buildings and vehicles as well as in a wide variety of 'white' and 'brown' electrical and electronic goods. Those cases also include investigations relating to personal injuries, electrocutions, and electrical engineering failures. He has appeared in Court as an Expert Witness in Civil and Criminal cases.

Noteworthy cases have included:

- 'The Ark', Hammersmith - successful recovery following a sprinkler control system failure that resulted in over £4 million of water damage;
- Digital, Basingstoke - successful recovery in a £25 million office fire caused by a small electrical connector;
- R -v- Bramley - prosecution of a serial fraudster, who specialised in high value sports cars, following a fire in a Lotus Esprit Le Mans racer;
- R -v- Snape - prosecution of a fraudulent fire setter proved by damage to brickwork and novel interpretation of smoke patterns;
- Carnaud Metal Box, Westhoughton - successful defence of inappropriate manslaughter charges raised following enquiries by the Health & Safety Executive into a double fatality in a chimney;

- Bolam -v- Tiley, Spennymore - successful apportionment of liability arising from the spread of fire started by hot work in a combined abattoir, shop and restaurant that resulted in £5 million worth of damage;
- The "Exploding Dog Catcher of Newham" - successful settlement of liability in a personal injury claim within a month of instruction following four years of litigation;
- Prudential Assurance -v- London Electricity - successful recovery of property damage and business interruption losses following an electricity sub-station explosion in the City
- R - v – Burtonshaw. Instructed by Humberside Police to review evidence in a hung jury case involving the death of a child. Defendant was convicted of murder on retrial.

**Capita Insurance Services** (formerly Capita McLarens and McLarens Toplis) - Fire investigator and Forensic Engineer - 1998 to 2005

Joined McLarens Toplis to establish a Fire Investigation and Forensic Engineering service within the company.

**R B Hawkins and Associates Ltd** - Associate Forensic Engineer - 1990 to 1998

Investigation of fires, explosions personal injuries and general engineering matters.

**Sira Safety Services** - Project engineer 1988 to 1990

Engineering consultancy specialising in the testing and certification of electrical apparatus for use in flammable atmospheres. Design and presentation of training courses to plant managers and technicians in the chemical, oil and gas industries regarding the safe selection, erection and maintenance of explosion protected electrical apparatus. Plant inspections, maintenance audits, Area Classification assessments and apparatus conformity assessments.

**British Nuclear Fuels Ltd** - Electrical and Instrumentation Design Engineer

Joined as a sponsored student and worked in the design offices after graduation. Secondments in the site construction, equipment commissioning, maintenance and quality assurance departments, dealing mainly with the electrical controls of bespoke mechanical handling plant.

## **ASSOCIATIONS**

Committee member of the UK chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators

Listed by the UK Register of Expert Witnesses

Visiting lecturer on electrical engineering aspects of fire investigation on Manchester Fire Brigade's in-house courses.

Member of the Working Party that reported to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, on the National Occupational Standards for Fire Investigators that were published in 2005.