

Colin Hanks QFSM, BSc (Hons), MIFireE, MIAAI, AFNI

Qualifications / Affiliation

Specialist Fire Investigation course (UK Fire Service College)
Advanced Fire Investigation course (Lancashire)
Diploma IFE Fire Investigation
Hazmat Specialist (UK Fire Service College)
Specialist Port and Ship Firefighting course (UK Fire Service College)
NEBOSH H&S Certificate
BSc (Hons) The Open University
Masters 200 (GT) Certificate of Competency No. CoC0062899
GMDSS General Operators Certificate (Radio)
IMDG Certified (Dangerous Goods).
Proficiency in Medical Care Qualified
Marine Incident Investigation and Analysis Course (Nautical Institute)
Advance Professional Award in Expert Witness Evidence, Level 7 BTEC (Masters level)
Member – Institution of Fire Engineers
Member – International Association of Arson Investigators
Member – UK Association of Fire Investigators
Associate Fellow - Nautical Institute

Awards

Awarded Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM) for Distinguished Service in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List 2010
Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal
Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal
Fire Service Long Service & Good Conduct Medal

Nationality

British

Contact

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Current Position at CWA

Principal Consultant



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Professional Summary

- Served in UK Fire Service for 33 years
- Specialist Fire Investigator for 5 years
- Experienced at presenting evidence in Coroners & Crown Court
- Divisional Commander responsible for Maritime Incident Response Group (MIRG) Ship Firefighting - North Wales & Irish Sea Sector
- As Assistant Chief Fire Officer, had extensive operational leadership experience involving critical incident decision making as the Fire and Rescue Service Incident Commander at a number of major incidents
- Master of Crew Transfer Vessels 2013 – 2017

Specific Expertise and Experience

Colin's Fire Service experience coupled with his existing maritime qualifications gives him a unique advantage when it comes to investigating fire and/or accidents aboard ships. He has considerable experience of operating within a dynamic risk environment in the marine industry.

He served in the Royal Navy and subsequently in the Merchant Navy (Deck Officer). Colin then joined the Fire Service initially in North Wales, then transferred to Cheshire. He returned to North Wales as Divisional Commander (West Division) and was later appointed Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Colin was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service in Her Majesty's New Year Honours List in 2010. Colin left the Fire service in 2012 after 33 years' service.

Following his sterling service with the Fire & Rescue Service, he attained the necessary qualifications to resume a nautical career, culminating in passing his Masters 200 (GT) Certificate of Competency in August 2013 and took on a Masters position in command of a Crew Transfer Vessel with 'Turbine Transfers' in the windfarm industry. He has worked extensively in Germany, Holland and Denmark since 2013 and for 9 months in UK waters for 'Tidal Transit' in 2016/17.

Since returning to sea in August 2013, he has sailed as master of six different Crew Transfer Vessels (CTV's) in the Offshore Windfarm Industry; he has on two separate occasions as 'Master' had to deal with incidents of fire whilst underway; a generator fire in the Auxiliary Machinery Space and a fire in the Port Engine Room.

Since joining CWA International in May 2017, Colin has provided expert opinion in fire related matters on the following types of incidents:

- Coal Cargoes – Elevated CH₄ gas levels – bulk carriers
- Containers damaged by missile strike
- Container vessel fire (9200 TEU)
- Cottonseed fire – Storage facility
- Crude oil tanker – explosion & fire – 4 fatalities
- Dust Explosion – Malt Cargo
- Engine Room fire – container vessel
- Explosion in fumigated soya bean meal (SBM) cargo

- Fumigation Fire in DDGS (grain) cargo
- Marble adhesive – container fire
- Naphtha fire – product tanker – 1 fatality
- Scrap metal fire – bulk carrier
- Seed cake – self heating– bulk carrier
- Sodium Percarbonate – Container fire
- Soya bean fire – extended voyage due to piracy- bulk carrier
- Soya bean silo fire & explosion
- Sugar Beet pulp pellets – fire in hold - bulk carrier
- Tapioca chips – fire in hold
- Wood Pellets – elevated CO & CH4 gas levels – bulk carrier
- Wood Pellets – self heating – bulk carrier

Attendances

Colin has carried out on-scene fire investigations at the following locations:

- **Egypt** – fire in fumigated grain cargo. Alexandria
- **Singapore** – Fire on container vessel (9200 TEU)
- **Spain** – fire in cargo of sugar beet pulp pellets. Seville
- **The Netherlands** – wood pellets with elevated CO & CH4 gas levels. Dordrecht
- **UK** – Attendance at forensic lab to examine fire damaged de-humidifier
- **UK** – Dust Explosion, Grain Silo, Tilbury
- **UK** – Fire in cargo of scrap metal. Southampton
- **UAE** – Inspection of containers damaged by missile strike. Jebel Ali
- **USA** – Fire and explosion in soya bean silo. Lake Charles, Louisiana