

## 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

[cwa@cwa.uk.com](mailto:cwa@cwa.uk.com)  
[Senior.secretary@cwa.uk.com](mailto:Senior.secretary@cwa.uk.com)  
<http://www.cwa.international>  
+44 (0) 20 7242 8444

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CWA International Ltd



CWA International Ltd  
5th Floor, 42 Trinity Square  
London EC3N 4DJ  
United Kingdom

[cwa@cwa.international](mailto:cwa@cwa.international)  
T : +44 (0) 20 7242 8444  
F : +44 (0) 20 7242 7555

Registered in England & Wales: 06446306

[www.cwa.international](http://www.cwa.international)



CWA Singapore Pte Ltd  
160 Robinson Road  
#23-04 SBF Center  
Singapore 068914

[cwa@cwa.sg](mailto:cwa@cwa.sg)  
T : +65 6822 2870  
F : +65 6822 2869

UEN: 201630022G

[www.cwa.sg](http://www.cwa.sg)

## Current Position at CWA International

Principal Consultant

## 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.
- Marine Fire Consultant since May 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:

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United Kingdom

cwa@cwa.international  
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- Coal – Bagged Coal- Hold fire
- Cocoa Beans – Fire in bulk cargo
- Coal Cargoes – Elevated CH4 gas levels – bulk carriers
- Coal – self-heating- bulk carrier
- Corn Gluten Feed – warehouse fire
- Containers damaged by missile strike
- Container vessel fire (9200 TEU)
- Container fire – Diphenyloxide
- Cottonseed fire – Storage facility
- Crude oil tanker – explosion & fire – 4 fatalities
- DDGS cargo – self heating – bulk carrier
- Dust Explosion – Malt Cargo
- Engine Room fire – container vessel
- Engine Room fire – Ro-Ro vessel
- Explosion in fumigated soya bean meal (SBM) cargo
- Fumigation Fire in DDGS (grain) cargo
- Fumigation explosion – India Wheat – bulk carrier
- Fumigation Fire – Wheat cargo
- Fumigation Fire – Rice cargo.
- Hot works advice – Fuel tank repair.
- Marble adhesive – container fire
- Marina Fire - involving several vessels.
- Naphtha fire – product tanker – 1 fatality
- Palm kernel cake – warehouse fire.
- PCTC vessel – advice to US Attorneys on fire-fighting tactics
- PKS cargo – self-heating – bulk carrier
- Rice cargo – self-heating.
- RoPax Ferry – vehicle fire – Use of Drenchers & Fire-Fighting
- 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
- Sunflower pellets – self heating.
- Tapioca chips – fire in hold
- Timber cargo (deck stowed) – Fire
- Unprocessed – Incinerator Bottom Ash (U-IBA) – Hydrogen explosion
- Windfarm components – General cargo – Hot works fire
- Wood Pellets – elevated CO & CH4 gas levels – bulk carrier
- Wood Pellets – self heating – bulk carrier

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Colin has completed several detailed investigations with accompanying reports. He has also provided advice to counsel and attended Arbitral Tribunal hearing in London to provide evidence as an expert witness.

Colin has also delivered webinars to P&I Clubs and The Nautical Institute on various fire related matters such as self-heating cargoes and fumigation fires/explosions.

## Attendances

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

- **Bangladesh** – Fire in bagged coal cargo. Chittagong.
- **Egypt** – fire in fumigated grain cargo. Alexandria
- **Germany** - cocoa beans – bulk cargo. Hamburg.
- **Gran Canaria** – cocoa beans – bulk cargo. Las Palmas
- **Romania** – Fire in cargo of Windfarm Components, Constanta
- **Singapore** – Fire on container vessel (9200 TEU) Singapore.
- **Spain** – fire in cargo of sugar beet pulp pellets. Seville
- **Thailand** – fire in fumigated cargo of rice. Ko Si Chang.
- **The Netherlands** – wood pellets with elevated CO & CH4 gas levels. Dordrecht
- **UK** – Attendance at forensic lab to examine fire damaged de-humidifier. Birmingham.
- **UK** – Dust Explosion, Grain Silo, Tilbury Port
- **UK** – Fire in cargo of scrap metal. Southampton
- **UK** – Hydrogen explosion in cargo of U-IBA. Avonmouth.
- **UAE** – Inspection of containers damaged by missile strike. Jebel Ali
- **USA** – Fire and explosion in soya bean silo. Lake Charles, Louisiana

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