PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering

Impacts of the Grenfell Tower Fire: Material Selection, Product Substitution, and Unintended Consequences

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Abstract On June 14, 2017, the 23-story Grenfell Tower in west London, U.K burned and claimed the lives of 72 people. In this seminar, in four parts, we will summarize 1) fire history and the influence of those events on standards development and changes in national and international building codes; 2) summarize current industry and regulatory response to the tragedy that occurred at Grenfell Tower and exterior wall assembly fires; 3) understand the basics of product vs. assembly testing and global standards for resistance-to-fire testing of full-scale exterior wall assemblies; and, 4) describe the mechanisms for fire spread in exterior wall assemblies and understand the basics of developing a systems approach fire protection strategies for buildings and structures.

Mr. Nicholas Ozog, PE, FPE has two decades of fire protection engineering experience. His expertise includes building and fire code analysis; property conditions assessment, performance-based design (PBD); fire protection system design and criteria development; fire modeling; risk management assessment; and loss control investigation. He has worked extensively on PBD and code analyses for a wide range of clients, projects, and occupancies nationwide, including some of the largest healthcare networks in the country.

Ms. Kremena Angelova has worked on many projects involving fire engineering assessment, damage investigation, structural evaluation, and related repair design and construction review. Her expertise includes evaluation of fire performance of cladding materials and systems, having performed such assessments on more than one hundred properties throughout Europe. Additionally, she has experience in structural analysis, computer modeling, and design of tall buildings and commercial developments.