SAFER:

Rethinking Fire Safety for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

- ### What is SAFER?

  A cross-sector initiative developing a **risk-based decision-support framework** for the **Dutch built environment**, designed to **incentivize investment** in fire-safe buildings. By spotlighting the **benefits of going beyond building codes**, SAFER aims to drive safer, more **resilient, and sustainable communities**.

- ### Why now?

  Fire safety is too often treated as a **compliance checkbox**—viewed as a **cost**, not an **investment**. This mindset overlooks its **long-term economic value**.

- ### Our goal

  To **shift the narrative** from "minimum legal compliance" to a focus on **measurable societal value** and **return on investment (ROI)**. SAFER empowers decision-makers with **risk-based, data-driven evidence** to make smarter fire safety choices.

- ### What we are building

  A **risk-based framework** that evaluates:

  - Probabilities of success/failure of fire safety measures
  - The impact of fire safety measures on damage prevention

  … and turns them into data-informed insights to help make more responsible fire safety decisions for various building typologies and user functions.

- ### Why we need you:

  We're looking for risk engineers to contribute by sharing their insights on the success rate and effectiveness of fire prevention and suppression measures in building fires by responding to a survey.

- ### What you gain:

  - Have your voice heard as stakeholders
  - Help shape a more responsible and ethical approach to safety in the built environment
  - Be part of pioneering change in incentivizing investment in fire safety beyond building codes

Introducing the SAFER Project:

A Collaborative Initiative for Advancing Fire Safety

Developing a decision support framework concerned with the microeconomics of fire-safe, sustainable, and resilient buildings for responsible and ethical safety decisions.

The SAFER project, partly financed by the Foundation for Fire Safety Economics and spearheaded by TU Delft's Safety and Security Sciences section, aims to demonstrate the economic, societal, and environmental value of investing in fire safety. This initiative is a result of collaboration among stakeholders across public and private sectors in the Netherlands, united by the belief that in the built environment, often too much focus is put on compliance instead of seeking the optimal fire-safety solution for the building. The benefits of implementing fire safety measures and their societal contribution are often not recognized and, therefore, not considered.

A risk-based framework to evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of fire safety measures.

In partnership with the Foundation, TU Delft is developing a risk-based framework to evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of fire safety measures. The framework will assess the consequences of potential fires, providing actionable insights for fire safety practitioners across diverse building types and uses. A key focus is on understanding how fire safety contributes to the resilience and sustainability of buildings, with special attention to the societal and environmental implications of building fires.

This framework relies on high-quality data to evaluate the probability of success for fire prevention and suppression measures, as well as to estimate the extent of damage from potential fires. However, current data on building fires is limited due to the relative novelty of materials and the interaction between materials, building parts, and integrated systems.

TU Delft seeks to collaborate with external organizations to gather expert opinions.

To address this challenge, TU Delft seeks to collaborate with external organizations to gather expert opinions from fire safety professionals, including risk and damage experts. These perspectives will ensure the framework reflects the knowledge and experiences of practitioners beyond the project's direct participants. Your organization's expertise can play a vital role in shaping a tool that enhances fire safety while promoting sustainability and resilience across the built environment to benefit all stakeholders alike.

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