



# IGNITE

**TE HIRINGA O TE TANGATA**

ISSUE 19 / AUTUMN 2021 / NGAHURU 2021

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Celebrating Whanganui's  
iconic fire watchtower

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10-Year Anniversary





**Ignite is the official magazine for Fire and Emergency New Zealand.**

**Te Hiringa o te Tangata –  
To have drive, zest, determination.  
To have heart and soul.**

Ignite represents the voices of the people across the country who dedicate themselves to protecting life, the environment and property in their communities.

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**Contributions to Ignite**

Contributions to be considered for publication are welcome and may be submitted to: [communications@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:communications@fireandemergency.nz).

Photos need to be at least 1MB.

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[fireandemergency.nz/news-and-media](http://fireandemergency.nz/news-and-media)

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**KIA ORA KOUTOU**

At Fire and Emergency New Zealand, we're committed to making sure everybody goes home safe and well after any work they undertake on behalf of our organisation.

The nature of firefighting means our people frequently find themselves in dynamic and sometimes dangerous environments. That's why training our firefighters receive is so important – to help them identify, assess and manage risks, and to keep themselves, their crew and the public safe at any incident.

In early March I visited our National Training Centre in Rotorua, along with members of our People Branch leadership team, to see how our "Safe Systems of Work" principle is delivered through the training and experiences our firefighters receive there.

Our focus on safety is also a theme throughout this issue of Ignite. Read about how Blackball Volunteer Fire Brigade members are better prepared having completed Working Safely Around Water training (page 12), and about changes we've made at our National Training Centre to improve trainee safety (page 3).

We're working with our communities to prepare for future incidents. For example, In Northland's Te Tai Tokerau, Pou Takawaenga Māori Liaison Albert Cash is working closely with local iwi to make sure their tikanga, skills and resources are reflected in our decision-making (page 11). In Christchurch, our career firefighters are undertaking joint training exercises with local high-risk companies to prepare for incidents involving hazardous substances (page 14). And in Twizel, Principal Rural Fire Officer Rob Hands is helping the rural community reduce their risk of wildfire. (page 13).

We also feature two significant events for New Zealand and for Fire and Emergency: our presence at Waitangi for Waitangi Day on 6 February (page 9), and our part in the events to remember the devastating Christchurch earthquake on 22 February 2011 (page 10).

**Stay safe,  
Rhys Jones, Chief Executive**



**LIVE FIRE TRAINING – IMPROVEMENTS TO SAFETY**

Live fire training is an important way to build experience and improve understanding of fire behaviours in a controlled environment.

In February 2019, a burn incident at the National Training Centre (NTC) in Rotorua led to an investigation and highlighted the risk of burn injuries during live fire training.

Ian Pickard, National Manager, People and Workforce Capability said important changes were swiftly made to protect the safety and wellbeing of students and trainers.

"We have zero tolerance for anyone getting injured during training, so we moved fast and the changes have led to a dramatic reduction in burns being suffered in live fire training," he said.

Most burns occur on the hands and lower arms and structural firefighting gloves were identified as a leading contributor to burns being sustained. It was found 54% of

people attending NTC for the Volunteer Qualified Firefighter Course arrived with gloves that were inappropriate for live fire training.

Alan Cleator, Training Programmes and NTC Manager says gloves issued on station are often too tight.

"Remember, the smallest object you'll pick up wearing your gloves will be a 41mil length of hose so it's vital to have the right fit to avoid injury," Alan said.

"All the changes we've implemented are working well. Our trainers have been instrumental in helping make this happen, keeping our students safer and encouraging them to take the learnings back to their own brigades. The knowledge and benefits will keep on growing."



**Actions to minimise risk of burns to our people**

- 'Does your Kit Still Fit' promotion, modules and posters
- Enhanced education on how gloves and bunker coat fit together
- Instruction on the use of new thumb loop added to structural kit
- Reduced burn cell loading, reducing risk of sweat and steam burns
- Glove sizing kits at training centres and operationally
- Alternative structural glove options (ESKA and Bristol)
- PPE inspections, including glove fit, prior to burn cell entry
- Identification and removal of all gloves designated unfit for use in fire cell
- Updating and development of policies and plans





## WHANGANUI'S ICONIC FIRE WATCHTOWER

In 2020, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga added the iconic Whanganui Fire Watchtower to the New Zealand Heritage List.

To mark the occasion, earlier this year Heritage New Zealand and Whanganui District Council organised a public Fire Watchtower 'open day' as part of Whanganui's Vintage Weekend.

"In the early days of Whanganui's settlement, fire watchtowers warned residents when the risk of fire arose. Long before the advent of smoke alarms, these watchtowers were an essential tool in keeping communities safe," says Bryan Barkla, Whanganui Fire Brigade member, who has an interest in local history.

Located in Whanganui's Cooks Gardens, the Fire Watchtower was built in 1891 and stands prominently on York Hill, the site of Patupūhou pā.

The contract for the building work was awarded to the then Whanganui Fire Brigade member Thomas H Battle, based on a design by local architect Alfred Atkins.

"On the 3rd April 1922, the night-watchman, Mr James Richardson climbed down from the watchtower for the last

time and handed in the keys to the station. The watchtower and its predecessors had been the main warning system for fires in Whanganui for 47 years," says Bryan.

Advancements in technology and training reduced the risk to the wider community from a large-scale fire. Today, education also plays a key role in reducing the risk of fire, as does work to build community resilience.

The Whanganui Fire Brigade now conduct regular school visits and visit households to speak about installing and maintaining smoke alarms, while supporting nationwide campaigns around fire safety and risk reduction.

"At our core, the motivation behind what we do hasn't changed much since the days of the watchtower," says Gary Ward, Area Manager.

"When warned of a risk to the Whanganui community, our firefighters do all they can to protect life and property – much as they did during Thomas Battle's time."

*Two vehicles with the Fire Watchtower in the background – from left to right: Gary Ward and Bryan Barkla (Fire and Emergency New Zealand), Karen Astwood (Heritage New Zealand) and Scott Flutey (Whanganui District Council).*



Colin Smith's Austin vehicle with the Fire Watchtower in the background



Bryan Barkla inspecting a 1938 Chevrolet vehicle

## LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES ENGAGING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

We established the first seven Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in June last year to put communities at the heart of our work. Since then, our LACs have been making great progress in each of their unique communities.

LACs provide independent advice on what their communities value, their needs and the risks they face. This will inform our planning, and help us better support communities to reduce risk, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and recover quickly when they happen.

National Manager LACs Lucy Chamberlain says it's been really fulfilling to see the committees hit the ground running and map out priority areas and which stakeholders to engage with.

"The committees have been working with our local leaders to get up to speed on each area from a Fire and Emergency perspective, and operationally, how we work," says Lucy.

All seven LACs have now completed their third round of committee meetings and finalised their work plans and priorities for engagement.

Many committees have also engaged with volunteers and volunteer representatives to understand the perspectives of volunteers and what their needs are.

Initial engagements have focused on the LACs sharing on who they are, and what they can offer the community they're embedded in – each LAC has taken a tailored approach, reinforcing that no two communities are the same.

At the committees' fourth round of meetings, they will review their engagements to date and focus on planning for their second year of operation.

You can read more about LACs on our website:



[fireandemergency.nz/lacs](https://fireandemergency.nz/lacs)





# NEW SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN STARS OUR FIREFIGHTERS

A startling one third of the residential fires we responded to last year didn't have smoke alarms installed, and of those that did, 10% of them weren't working.

This month we've launched a new behaviour change campaign to share a familiar message about smoke alarms, only this time, our very own firefighters are at the forefront, helping to inform the public.

The idea behind the campaign is that firefighters don't like movies with fires in them because they don't often show the reality of a house fire, and the devastating impacts that can follow.

The ad follows Senior Firefighter Aaron Jackson, showing what he's experiencing in the aftermath of responding to a fatal house fire, and how different this is to what's shown to the public by Hollywood.

Aaron shares, "When I read the script I could see that they hadn't skimped on reality – it's a very real script.

"As well as the smoke alarms story, I also wanted to help share that for firefighters, it has to be our best day on someone's worst day. I really considered it a privilege to be given an opportunity like this to represent and give voice to the brothers and sisters from Fire and Emergency," says Aaron.

The ad also stars Senior Station Officer David Wood, Senior Firefighters Raymond Cowley, Chris Petrie and Tobi Noble, and National Advisor Fire Risk Management Pete Gallagher.

National Manager Community Readiness and Recovery Steve Turek says, "It has been so meaningful to have our people sharing such a real message with the public. We're grateful to everyone that was involved."

The campaign is currently running across TV, video on demand, radio, print, online and social media, so make sure you keep an eye out for these. Our TV ad will be available in te reo, and in English with te reo subtitles.

The ad is hard-hitting and sometimes confronting. We've tested this concept and research shows that the authentic

and realistic approach we've taken is most effective in getting people to act and install smoke alarms.

For those of our people who have responded to, investigated, or been involved in housefires, the ad may trigger recollections of some of those incidents. If the ad has been triggering for you then please access the range of support services that are available to all our people and can be found on the Portal.

The more we get messages about the importance of smoke alarms out, the more we can encourage people to install them in homes. As part of Fire and Emergency, you are a key advocate in encouraging New Zealand communities to install smoke alarms. We've developed resources to help share our messages which are available here: available here:



[portal.fireandemergency.nz/bookshelf/risk-reduction-and-community-readiness/fire-safety-campaign-resources/firefighters-dont-like-fire-movies](https://portal.fireandemergency.nz/bookshelf/risk-reduction-and-community-readiness/fire-safety-campaign-resources/firefighters-dont-like-fire-movies)



# BOARD PROFILE: MALCOLM INGLIS

Fire and Emergency Board member, Malcolm Inglis, enjoys getting out and meeting our people. He is constantly inspired by the incredible work of our people do and their commitment to their communities.

Appointed in 2018, Malcolm lives with his wife, Robina, on a lifestyle block just outside of Whanganui, where they've planted around 1000 trees and shrubs.

As an accountant, Malcolm may be a "numbers guy", yet an extensive career in governance roles across nearly 20 organisations and his commitment as a volunteer with his local LandSAR group suggest he's more than just a 'bean-counter'. Although numbers are never far from Malcolm's mind.

"At the end of the day we are funded by the community to do an important job and we need to show prudence and value in all aspects of our work."

Creating positive change in organisations is something that he's been involved in for many years. He believes his involvement with LandSAR gives him an insight into some of the challenges facing our people.

Malcolm values meeting those on the frontline and grabs any chance he gets to do a 'ride-along' with the Whanganui brigade.

"As a Board we do regional visits to connect with our people. It's not to become a firefighter, it's to better understand so that when I'm sitting in the Board meeting making decisions, I've got a sense of what it might mean for the frontline."

He's "constantly blown away" by the commitment of our people, including Alan Hickford – a long-time member of his local Waverley Volunteer Fire Brigade.

"I gave Alan a 50-year service medal and it was revealed at the award ceremony he'd turned out to 93% of call-outs, all while running his own business and raising and supporting a family. Amazing!

"Another time I went and gave a Board letter of commendation to Sarah Liliburn from Hunterville Brigade who had been involved in a tricky rescue. The brigade didn't tell her what the ceremony was about because they knew if they told her that it was about her, she wouldn't have turned up!

"That's the nature of many of our people. It's not about them, it's about the service. They just do the job and go home." Malcolm says.

Malcolm is positive about the progress Fire and Emergency is making yet recognises the job is not finished with some major challenges such as climate change requiring us to act differently in the future.

"It's something of a paradox but successful organisations often find it hard to change because their success comes from being really good at doing things the way they're currently done," Malcolm says.

"There's also the ongoing challenge in the health and safety space, particularly given the nature of our role puts our firefighters in harm's way.

"It's the responsibility of the Board to think constantly about health and safety while encouraging our people to go out and do this work. As a Board we cast the health and safety lens over everything we do."







## NEW QUEENSTOWN FIRE STATION OFFICIALLY OPENED

Our newly refurbished Queenstown Fire Station was officially opened by Internal Affairs Minister Hon. Jan Tinetti on Saturday 13 February.

The extensively refurbished station now features three appliance bays, an operational area with decontamination facilities, modern IT equipment, meeting and training rooms, bedrooms, two kitchens and a training tower.

The event was also attended by Fire and Emergency Board Chair Paul Swain, Deputy Chief Executive Russell Wood, Te

Kei Region Manager Mike Grant, Queenstown Lakes District Councillor Heath Copland, local iwi, area management and Queenstown Volunteer Fire Brigade's 50 volunteers, their family and friends.

Ngāi Tahu Kaumatua Darren Rewi blessed the new building at a simple ceremony on Saturday morning.



## WAITANGI DAY

Our people in Te Hiku did some very important mahi at this year's Waitangi Day celebration. The day began in darkness at the dawn service at Te Whare Rūnanga, before a hot breakfast hosted by Paihia Station then a day full of children's combat challenges, Escape My House demonstrations and kōrero around fire safety.

Due to the recent cases of COVID-19 in the community and following calls from iwi to discourage inter-regional travel, it was decided that local leadership would fly our flag this year. This meant that Area Commander Wipari Henwood and Regional Pou Takawaenga Māori, Albert Cash along with other commitments, delivered the dawn karakia alongside the Prime Minister, and other dignitaries, on the day.

"It was great to see some new faces in our group representing Fire and Emergency at Waitangi this year, it is a great opportunity for our people to gain important skills in engaging with the community on our safety messages," says Wipari.



## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

We'd love to hear your views on whether we are hitting the mark with our communications and how we reach you with our updates. Let us know your thoughts by taking our Communications Survey. To take part, simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera or email [nationalcommunications@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:nationalcommunications@fireandemergency.nz)





## CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

At 12:51 p.m. on Tuesday 22 February 2011, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Christchurch claiming the lives of 185 people and injuring many more. Ten years later, and the event still has a lasting impact on Christchurch and all of New Zealand.

On the day, career firefighters, volunteers, USAR teams, CommCen staff and support staff from all over the country quickly began working together, doing everything they could to rescue people across the city – alongside other emergency services.

Many of those same people attended the commemorations at Oi Manawa, the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial, honouring the memory of those who lost their lives while reflecting on the devastation caused that day as we continue to work together to support the community and its long journey to recovery.

*Area Commander David Stackhouse and Area Commander David Berry*



## WORKING WITH IWI DURING INCIDENT RESPONSE

During a hot, dry summer, Te Tai Tokerau suffered severe droughts across the region. This resulted in two wildfires that carried a significant risk to life and property.

"Ahipara was a 56-hectare fire and Pipiwai was 158, says Albert Cash, Pou Takawaenga, Māori Liaison.

"I worked with local iwi to ensure they had input on what was happening, and that there was a fluid relationship between Fire and Emergency and themselves."

"You want to give them an honest picture of everything that is going on so they feel informed and they can inform you about things to do with the land," Albert explains.

"I will take them up in the helicopter so they can see the scope of what we're working on and let them know what tactics we're using to fight the fire."

At the Ahipara and Pipiwai fires, Albert ensured that the tikanga of affected iwi was acknowledged throughout our firefighting efforts. Because of this approach, the mana of iwi was upheld and they in turn have shown their appreciation and admiration for Fire and Emergency's approach to engagement during emergencies.

"Before the Pigeon Valley fire, we used to inform iwi about what we were doing as opposed to having them involved in the decision making.

"At Pigeon Valley, the decision was made to include iwi as part of the incident response and recognise the skills and resources they're able to provide. We've been using this approach ever since with great success."



## SIDE BY SIDE IN EMERGENCY SERVICES

Father and son, Courtney and Shannon Taylor are both volunteers with Waitara Volunteer Fire Brigade, but it goes further than that. Recently they were teacher and student, when Courtney led the medical co-response training in Stratford.

Courtney works with St John Ambulance and is the assigned medical co-response trainer for Fire and Emergency in Taranaki.

"I was a paramedic in Queensland for nine years. When I came back home, I gave up the uniform but not the passion," he said. "It's a dream come true to volunteer with my son and pass on the medical knowledge to him and other fire fighters. St John and Fire and Emergency are kindred spirits and we've already seen a marked increase in lives being saved with the high-level first

aid knowledge firefighters are gaining."

Shannon relishes the opportunity to learn from his father and work together on the brigade.

"Dad used to be pick me up from school in the ambulance, so I was always going to be in the emergency services! I've been a volunteer for over 16 years and love every minute of it. It's in the blood as my grandparents were also ambulance personnel with St John. You can't keep us away!"







## TIP TOP TRUCKS AND A TANKER BAY

In 1971, Jim Guyton was managing a butcher's shop in Mossburn, Southland, next to the fire station. Whenever the noisy siren went off, Jim had to shut up shop. The Fire Chief eventually said that if he couldn't beat it, he should join it – and he did.

By 1973, Jim was Fire Chief and there was plenty to do. The fire truck needed replacing so he and nine volunteers ran raffles and sold oysters at the pub to raise enough to buy an old Bedford Tip Top truck from Dunedin. They kept the cab and chassis and stuck the tank from the old fire truck on the back. It worked so well they bought another and converted it into a tanker.

"We had an engineer and carpenter in the brigade and plenty of muscle, so we just got on with it. Then we built our own tanker bay," said Jim. Jim is still at the centre of things, running the control room for the Mossman brigade and cooking up a feed for the crew on practice nights.

"We started off with very little and built it up. I've been part of an awesome team and a really supportive family. I mightn't be as fast when the siren goes now, but I still make it!"



## BLACKBALL FIRE BRIGADE ALL TRAINED IN WORKING SAFELY AROUND WATER

The Working Safely Around Water equipment is a valuable piece of kit for the Blackball Volunteer Fire Brigade according to its Chief Fire Officer, Robert Newcombe (Scotty).

Scotty says the whole brigade has done the working safely around water training which was essential because of the topography of the West Coast.

"We could not be without the kit. We have creeks on both sides and floods are very common. I have experienced Blackball cut off by flood waters and cars going into the river is also common. We have also been called to rescue animals from the water.

"Working safely around water is the one thing that, if you are not prepared, and you are not familiar with the gear you put your safety at risk. When we were practising with the kit, it became clear that we could have made mistakes if it was the 'real thing', for example the lines knotting up."

Scotty says he urges other brigades to do the training.

"Get the kit out and have a play. Look at the information on the Portal. It is easy to find and to follow."

## THINKING GREEN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE

An education programme which has been running in the MacKenzie District for the last two years is looking at ways to reduce the risk of fire in a region prone to hot dry summers and prevailing north-westerly winds.

After risk assessments identified a large peri-urban fire risk to Twizel and the surrounding area, Fire Risk Management Officer, Craig Chambers, and Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officer, Carrie Larkin, began sharing advice with locals, before Covid-19 got in the way.

Last year, with the Pukaki Downs and Lake Ōhau fires still fresh in the memories of the Twizel community, they organised a meeting to outline their risk reduction approach.

The team regularly advise on how to reduce the fuel load on properties and offer free risk assessment of homes, inside and out. The face-to-face meeting has really helped strengthen the relationship between the wider community and Fire and Emergency.

"They can engage with someone that isn't just a piece of paper or phone call or an email," Craig says.

One innovation is planting fire-resistant species as 'green' firebreaks with the support of Dr Tim Currin, a plant ecologist, based at Lincoln University, who spoke at the meeting.

"Tim is a plant ecologist who has completed extensive research on how plants respond to extreme disturbance events such as fires. He and his students measure plant flammability and determine different plantings in different areas that can be used as 'green' firebreaks," Craig says.

It all forms part of what Craig calls an ongoing project with the community and others alike, one based on good communication and trust. The Twizel fire brigades (and particularly CFO Simon Fox) were instrumental in all of this work.



## TWO BY TWO AT TE PUKE

There are two father and son combos at the Te Puke volunteer fire brigade, with the Chief and Deputy Fire Officers volunteering alongside their sons.

Glenn Williams is Fire Chief and a volunteer firefighter for 40 years. "It's pretty special working with my son. I remember one large fire incident where we arrived at 11pm and stayed until 9am. Ben went straight to school – think he spent a chunk of the day asleep at his desk!" said Glenn.

Ben Williams has been a volunteer for seven years and is studying at Otago University, attending training nights with the Ravensbourne brigade.

"I really enjoy working with Dad when I'm home. You know you're in good hands. I've learned so much over the years and enjoy helping the community," said Ben.

Dale Lindsay is Deputy Chief and a volunteer for 36 years. His 17-year-old son joined last year.

"It's a buzz working with Peter. We have a great brigade with a strong family atmosphere. We're all here to help people and that keeps us tight," said Dale.

Peter joined with two of his friends last year and was inspired by his Dad growing up. "It's weird but great to work with Dad. If anyone's thinking of joining, I'd really recommend it. What I'm learning and doing is amazing," he said.





## GONE IN AN HOUR

It only took an hour for Greytown Fire Station to become a pile of wood and iron. The bulldozers moved in on 29 December and made quick work of demolishing the station to make way for a new one.

A small contingent of past and current members was roadside watching the proceedings including Greytown Chief Fire Officer, Steve Meyrick who said it was 'the end of an era' but the team was looking forward to having a new station.

"It has been a long time coming and we were excited to see it come down."

The foundations for the new station started on 18 February, with the concrete floor slab completion tracking for 19 March. Completion of the building is planned for November this year.

Greytown Volunteer Fire Brigade has 26 volunteer members plus six operational support officers. While they await construction of their new station, they are housed in a temporary fire station that has been constructed at the West Street side of the site. This includes two 40-foot shipping containers providing lockers and an office/meeting room. These containers act as anchors for the shelter that has been installed for the appliance bay. The station includes showers and toilets, and a 20-foot shipping container for storage.



## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL COMPANIES FOR TRAINING

Fire and Emergency trainer Josh Vermeulen has taken training for our Christchurch career firefighters to another level.

"We decided to contact local companies at sites with potential risk. We looked at the risk by topic and the first company we identified was Americold. We door-knocked and they agreed to organise a training exercise on their site with the involvement of their staff.

"On the day of the exercise, crews are aware they will be training but they don't know where the training will take place. They get turned out by ComCen to a building or site and when they get there, they have to tackle the scenario like a normal job."

Other scenarios have been organised at Chemfreight in Christchurch.

Station Officer at Wigram Station, Mike Harvey, who attended the exercise at Chemfreight, responded to a real-life incident at another site recently and had to deal with a 1000L container of nitric acid, pierced at the bottom by a forklift.

"The incident was made much easier. The knowledge and experience that we all gained was reflected by the way all personnel went through the process of systematically neutralising the hazard."

Josh and his team also contacted the local Countdown supermarket team, who were so keen to participate that they offered all the stores in the greater Christchurch area as training venues.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 was International Women's Day. Raewyn Bleakley, our Deputy Chief Executive and Rachael Utumapu, our Manager Women's Development hosted a national video conference with a group of incredible women who shared their experiences and challenges.

Around the country our people hosted a range of fantastic local events, here are some snippets.





# HATE THIS!!

- Dangerously Inaccurate
  - Totally Unrealistic
- See Comments below...

INTERIOR BEDROOM, JOHNSON HOUSE - NIGHT

Jessica stirs. She sits up, sleepy.  
She nudges Ryan, softly. Then HARDER.

WOULDN'T WAKE UP  
You have NO sense of smell  
in your sleep.

JESSICA  
Ryan! Do you smell that?

A real house fire  
moves so fast  
most 111 calls  
come from  
neighbors

Ryan sits up, groggy. Half awake, he gets out of bed,  
tosses on his boxers. SMOKE CURLS IN through the doorway.  
RYAN opens the door to see flames in the far corner of  
the living room.

DOORKNobs WOULD BE 700°C  
- too hot to touch

Ryan (off camera)  
Call the fire department.

Jessica stunned, reaches for the phone

INT. JOHNSONS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ryan runs down the HALLWAY, the roof IN FLAMES  
as he enters his SON'S ROOM. He sees his son (5)  
crouched in the corner holding his teddy

Thick black  
Carbon monoxide smoke  
= ZERO Visibility

RYAN  
Go outside quickly!

If flames visible  
fire unmovable in  
less than 1 minute

These actions -  
6-8 mins approx...

ALL CHARACTERS  
WOULD BE DEAD  
AT THIS POINT.

His son nods and RYAN moves on down the hall,  
HUSTLING INTO -- THE NURSERY.

RYAN grabs the baby, covers him in a blanket and  
RUNS OUT, We watch as RYAN PUSHES THROUGH the back door into -

EXT. BACKYARD, JOHNSON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ryan hands Jessica the baby as a SECTION OF  
THE ROOF COLLAPSES. Jessica turns WHITE as we hear

DAUGHTER (FROM INSIDE)  
Daddy!

We rarely hear calls  
for help. Anyone inside  
usually unconscious  
or their voices damaged  
from smoke inhalation.

DRAMATIC MUSIC -- CRESCENDOS

RYAN quickly grabs a wet towel off the clothes line,  
covers his face and RUNS BACK INTO the burning house-

THE FIRE WOULD BE 1000°C AT HEAD HEIGHT,  
Even with 28 kilos of protective equipment  
we struggle to enter.

RETURN TO  
SCRIPT DEPARTMENT

Pete Gallagher - National Advisor Fire Risk