

# Increasing global attention for fire safety

A NUMBER OF RECENT INCIDENTS - FIRES IN HOTELS AND AT INDUSTRIAL SITES - HAVE INCREASED THE ATTENTION FOR FIRE SAFETY CONSIDERABLY. GOVERNMENTS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE TIGHTENED THEIR REQUIREMENTS. TEBODIN'S FIRE SAFETY EXPERTS ELAYARAJA SIVAJI AND PETER COORT EXPLAIN THE GROWING ATTENTION ON FIRE SAFETY AND HOW COMPANIES CAN BENEFIT OF THE LATEST DETECTION TECHNOLOGY.

The focus on fire safety is increasing rapidly in the Middle East. Elayaraja Sivaji, UAE Consultancy Director: 'From January 2017, all commercial building designs in Dubai must comply to requirements in line with updated UAE Fire code. Clients ask us whether their systems still comply with these new and strict requirements'. Last year, Tebodin executed several projects in Dubai alone to examine entire fire safety systems, including escape routes, fire compartments, sprinkler systems and detector coverage.



Peter Coort



Raja Sivaji

## Part of the business model

'Recent events have shown that the choice for a good fire protection concept pays off', states Peter Coort, Senior Fire Safety specialist in the Netherlands. 'It is now up to the companies to tackle this challenge and develop their views on fire safety. Waiting for the fire department is history.' Peter notes that in recent years a clear change of culture has been taking place. 'We see that companies are more and more considering the aspect of fire safety as a business model, rather than simply complying with laws and regulations. Companies

are increasingly calculating the costs of a factory's down time, should an outbreak of fire occur. These are often a lot higher than the purchase of a good fire safety system. Our added value is to make the connection with other risks such as environmental, occupational and external safety', adds Peter.

## Advanced technology

Sivaji: 'For the oil & gas industry we recently developed a 3D based fire & gas mapping technology to determine the risk of fire, combustible gas and

emissions of toxic gases to persons, property and the environment. The software utilizes algorithm calculation for both scenario and geographical based assessment. 3D models of the facility show detector coverage, multiple obstruction locations, obstruction orientations and different wind conditions. For new and emerging businesses in our region like solar panel or hybrid fuels sites as well'. Peter: 'In the Netherlands we gained relevant expertise from a project regarding the installation of a hydrogen tank station, which we shared with Sivaji's team'. ■

## Gas & fire mapping studies

