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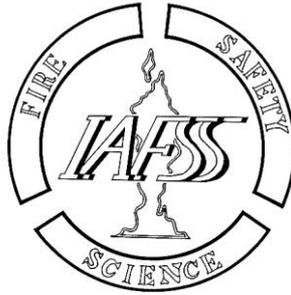
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Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Importance of Setting up a Subject Category 'Fire Science and Technology' in Institute for Scientific Information**

Fire safety is a growing area during the last decades and gained a significance importance. Examples are e.g. the work related to the collapse of the WTC building in 2001. This event created a large amount of research. As research workers in the fire science and engineering profession, we are disappointed not to see a subject category 'Fire Science and Technology' within the Science Citation Index (SCI) Expanded journal list in Institute for Scientific Information (ISI).

As you might recognize, fire is now a very important area with a big population of researchers, engineers and officers working all over the world. With the rapid growth of economies in the Far East, there are many complex mega-scale construction projects with very tall buildings, long tunnels, big shopping malls, deep subway stations and large Central Business Districts. The fire phenomena in those projects are unknown. On the other hand, many fires have been reported due to unknown reasons. Therefore, fire hazards must be studied scientifically with research support. Consequently, much more scientists are working in fire science and technology with the publication volume increased.

IAFSS was founded with the primary objective of encouraging research into the science of preventing and mitigating the adverse effects of fires and of providing a forum for presenting the results of such research. The International Association for Fire Safety Science perceives its role to lie in the scientific bases for achieving progress in unsolved fire problems. IAFSS organizes every 3 years one of the largest fire conferences in the world and has struggled in getting fire science on the international scene.

It is therefore very important to set up a specific subject category 'Fire Science and Technology' in ISI, so that academics working in the field can have their publications recognized by the academic world, in addition to what they have been recognized in the profession already. We hope therefore that we can open a discussion with our organization and we welcome any reaction from your side.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Patrick van Hees  
Chair of IAFSS