

CARMEN GORSKA, Ph.D.

SENIOR RESEARCHER, FIRE SCIENCE, FIRE ENGINEERING SERVICES, FIRE RESEARCH SERVICES

SPAIN

Carmen.Gorska@halliwellglobal.com
+34672805498 | Mobile
halliwellglobal.com

SPECIALTIES

- Fire safety of mass timber and high-rise timber buildings
- Fire dynamics and self-extinction of mass timber compartments
- External and façade fires
- Fire risks associated with emerging technologies (Photovoltaic panels, lithium-ion batteries)
- Heat and mass transfer
- Experimental fire science and fire testing
- Performance-based fire safety engineering for complex facilities
- Real fires investigation
- Research and development

BIOGRAPHY

Carmen is a Senior Fire Researcher who began her research career at the University of Queensland (UQ), Australia, where she completed a PhD in the fire dynamics of mass timber buildings. During her time at UQ, she taught graduate courses, delivered professional training, supervised master's students, published research, and developed expertise in experimental fire science, compartment timber fire behaviour, façades fires, and heat and mass transfer.

In 2020, she joined Stora Enso in London, leading research and engineering projects focused on fire safety in high-rise timber buildings and engineered timber products. She then moved to CERN in 2022, where she supported fire safety engineering projects across complex facilities, including radiologically affected areas and underground infrastructure.

After joining OFR in 2023, she worked as a Senior Fire Safety Engineer, developing fire strategies and providing specialist consultancy across a wide range of building types, with particular expertise in mass timber construction. Also contributed to research projects informing the UK Government on the state of the art in several fire safety areas, supporting the development of future regulations and standards.

Since joining Halliwell in November 2026, Carmen has been providing technical and academic support and contributing to research and investigation projects across the business.

QUALIFICATIONS

BEng – Civil Engineering (2013)

MSc – International Master of Science in Fire Safety Engineering (2015)

PhD – Fire Safety in timber structures (2020)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Senior Researcher, HALLIWELL: 2026 - current

HALLIWELL

CARMEN GORSKA, Ph.D.

SENIOR RESEARCHER, FIRE SCIENCE, FIRE ENGINEERING SERVICES, FIRE RESEARCH SERVICES

- Senior Fire Engineer, OFR Consultants Ltd: 2023 – 2026
- Senior Fellow Fire Safety Engineer, CERN: 2022 – 2023
- Research & Development Fire Safety Engineer, Stora Enso: 2020 – 2022
- Casual Academic, The University of Queensland: 2016 – 2020

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Fire Science Show Podcast – International audience. 130 episode: Mass timber fire dynamics with Dr. Carmen Gorska https://www.firescienceshow.com/130-mass-timber-fire-dynamics-with-dr-carmen-gorska/
- TEDx Speaker at the University of Queensland: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKXnKRD2EU4&t=27s
- Ambassador of the SAGE Pilot of Athena SWAN Program to improve gender equity in STEMM disciplines: https://stories.uq.edu.au/shorthand-uq/contact-magazine/2018/uq-women-create-change/

SELECTED AWARDS

- 2025 - Global Research Award - Women in Fire Safety Awards, for pioneering global research in fire and timber structures and dissemination.
- 2025 - Top 100 Women in Engineering Poland – Recognition for technical innovation in structural timber design and advocacy for women in STEM.
- 2023 - Silver Philip Thomas Medal of Excellence - Marked a rare achievement, as she competed against senior academics. This award honours the best overall research paper submitted to IAFSS between 2020 and 2023.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Thermal exposure to roofs from fires involving photovoltaic panels (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-solarphotovoltaic-panels-on-roofs)

Multi-Scale Characterisation of the Fire Hazards of Timber Cladding, D. Hopkin, M. Spearpoint, Y. Kanellopoulos, C.Gorska, C. Mayfield, https://doi.org/10.3390/fire8020035

Description of small and large-scale cross-laminated timber fire tests, Fire Safety Journal, vol. 91, pp. 327-335, 2017, ISSN 0379-7112. R. Emberley, C. Gorska Putynska, A. Bolanos, A. Lucherini, A. Solarte, D. Soriguer, M. Gutierrez Gonzalez, K. Humphreys, J. P. Hidalgo, C. Maluk, A. Law, J. L. Torero,

Fire Dynamics in Mass Timber Compartments, Fire Safety Journal. C. Gorska, J.P. Hidalgo, J.L. Torero, C. Gorska Putynska, J. P. Hidalgo,

Fire Safety Risks in Buildings with Exposed Mass Timber Structures, presented at the IRG49 Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa, Apr. 2018.

C. Gorska, J.P. Hidalgo, J.L. Torero, "An experimental study of medium-scale compartment fire tests with exposed cross-laminated timber", Proceedings of the 2nd International Fire Safety Symposium, 2017.