



LOOKING BACK ON THE FIRST-EVER FOAM ACADEMY EUROPE

AN INTERNATIONAL MILESTONE IN INDUSTRIAL FIREFIGHTING

by Mike Mutsaers from RelyOn

After months of detailed preparation and close coordination with partners, the moment finally arrived on Monday, April 14: the first-ever Foam Academy Europe officially kicked off. Powered by DNM Industrial Firefighting and WILLIAMS FIRE & HAZARD CONTROL, this unique event took place at the RelyOn Fire Academy training grounds on the Rotterdam Maasvlakte – an international Fire training center unlike any other in the world of industrial firefighting.

Over the course of four intensive days – from Monday, April 14 to Thursday, April 17 – the Maasvlakte became the hotspot of knowledge sharing, practical training, hands-on experience and above all, international collaboration. Participants from no fewer than seven countries – the United Arab Emirates, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Kuwait, Nigeria, and the Netherlands – came together to deepen their expertise, gain new insights, and collectively learn from the latest developments in foam-based fire suppression.

What made this first edition of Foam Academy Europe truly special was not only the high-quality program but also the impressive diversity of its participants. From firefighting professionals from major industrial sites to government representatives and safety consultants – everyone brought

their own experiences and questions, leading to rich discussions and valuable exchanges.

The program was built around three core pillars: theory, practice, and collaboration. Mornings featured in-depth theoretical sessions on foam technology, extinguishing agent chemistry, risk analysis, the latest NFPA guidelines, and – not to be overlooked – the suppression of tank and tankbund fires. In the afternoons, theory came to life during realistic scenarios and hands-on



Foam Academy Europe

What started as an ambitious concept on paper has grown into a successful and inspiring event that demonstrates how vital (and achievable) international collaboration is in the field of industrial safety. Foam Academy Europe has established a powerful network where knowledge, innovation, and professionalism converge. The connections made this week extend beyond borders – and will undoubtedly contribute to safer industrial operations worldwide.

We look back on this first edition with pride and look ahead with equal excitement. One thing is certain: Foam Academy Europe will return. The bar has been set high, but the motivation to keep growing, sharing knowledge, and working together is even higher.

See you at the next edition!

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demonstrations at the RelyOn training grounds. There, participants actively engaged in monitor operations, full surface fires, and tank fire suppression exercises.

A significant added value of the week was the presence of specialists from WILLIAMS FIRE & HAZARD CONTROL, globally recognized for their expertise in large-scale industrial firefighting. Their insights, real-world case studies, and live demonstrations provided an exceptionally realistic perspective on what it takes to successfully manage a foam-based fire response on an industrial scale.

Evenings also offered plenty of opportunities to connect and exchange experiences in a relaxed

atmosphere. The enjoyable evening activities created the perfect balance between intensive learning and informal networking. From themed group dinners to spontaneous conversations in casual settings – these moments strengthened interpersonal bonds and brought the international spirit of Foam Academy Europe to life.

It was truly a highlight to come together at the Maasvlakte, surrounded by professionals with an enormous passion for their work. Whether it was refining suppression strategies, exchanging insights with international peers, or jointly evaluating training scenarios – the shared dedication and enthusiasm were palpable during every exercise and every coffee break.



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Mike Mutsaers is a dedicated fire and safety professional with over 15 years of experience in both industrial and public emergency response. As Product Specialist at RelyOn Fire Academy Rotterdam-Maasvlakte, he develops practical, high-quality training solutions. Mike also serves as a volunteer fire commander and has held key roles at the GBA (Unified Fire Brigade for the Port of Amsterdam) and BP Refinery Rotterdam. Known for his hands-on expertise, he actively shares his knowledge through training and industry working groups.

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