

## **Understanding the Need for BIM Services in Fire Protection**

Often, we hear the word “BIM,” and our mind flashes to visuals of architectural renderings. Lines, angles, and levels crowd our minds as we mentally fly through the image as if we are one with Navis Works. We see steel, duct, and doors, but do we register red pipe branches, brass heads, and riser rooms?

Fire is often regarded in construction as the trade that can “work around what is already there.” However, through BIM services, we find that Fire Protection can work in concert with other trades as a part of the pre-construction BIM phase. We can provide a global picture of fire suppression needs and variables by integrating Fire Protection.

Our first step is understanding BIM; BIM is best defined as Building Information Modeling. This digital rendering of a perceived outcome streamlines a building’s layers and processes. Through BIM, each phase is projected and evaluated based on code, constructability, and appropriate resources. This conceptual rendering allows trades to view a structure from multiple angles, thus supporting field implementation. BIM also allows for remote access, promoting communication between all parties involved in the structure’s evolution.

BIM has become vital in Fire Protection and Safety and has been thrust to the forefront since the Grenfell Tower Fire in Europe and other tragic events around the globe. Michael Stromgren with Briab states a comprehensive review from Hackitt that “...BIM for fire protection should be implemented to improve control and transparency. The intent is to enable duty holders to improve accuracy and quality from design to construction to building operation, i.e., ensuring the golden thread of information throughout the project. Essentially, how can you otherwise ensure compliance if information regarding fire safety features of a building is missing or incomplete?”

By utilizing BIM Services in Fire Protection, we create space for due diligence and ensure that each structure design allows optimal safety measures. Fire Protection is more than fire sprinklers, and BIM is more than just a picture; together, they influence the life cycle of the building and its occupants.

**<https://firesafeeurope.eu/bim-and-fire-safety/>**