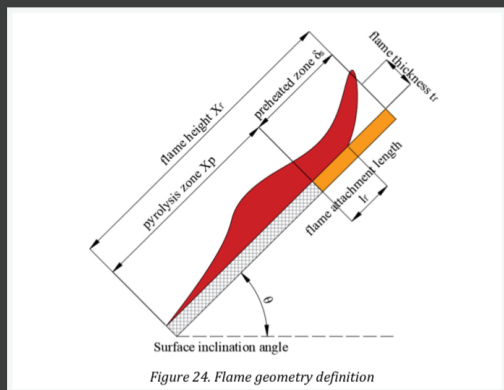


Main Street Memo:

Straight Run Stairs and the Trench Effect



Things to Know

- ▶ The trench effect is a combination of the Coanda effect and flashover spreading up U shaped inclines of 15° or more.
- ▶ The Kings Cross fire in 1987 was the first studied instance of the trench effect.
- ▶ The U shaped geometry of combustible interior straight run stairs in Mainstreet buildings sets up a potential trench effect scenario.
- ▶ Combustible liquids poured on straight run stairs can initiate the fire behavior required for a trench effect.