



Jason D. Averill

Deputy Director

Jason D. Averill is the Deputy Director of the Engineering Laboratory (EL) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). EL promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology for engineered systems in ways that enhance economic security and improve quality of life and carries out mission-related activities in fire prevention and control; national earthquake hazards reduction; national windstorm impact reduction; National Construction Safety Teams; building materials and structures; engineering and manufacturing materials, products, processes, equipment, technical data, and standards;

manufacturing enterprise integration; collaborative manufacturing research pilot grants; and manufacturing fellowships. EL also conducts applied research in systems integration and engineering; intelligent systems and control; robotics and automation; sustainability and energy efficiency; economic analysis and life cycle assessment; productivity measurement; and safety and environmental performance.

Since joining EL in 1997, Mr. Averill has published over 70 papers on assessment of hazards to building occupants. Key research areas include movement of people, emergency preparedness, effectiveness of building systems and technologies, and emergency response. Mr. Averill has assessed fire safety for passenger rail cars, characterized material toxicity in large and bench scale experiments, characterized the effect of firefighting resources, and evaluated smoke detection technologies in residential housing.

Mr. Averill was leader of the Engineered Fire Safety Group in the Fire Research Division from 2009 to 2012. From 2012 to 2013, he was detailed to the NIST Program Coordination Office, where he provided technical and policy advice to NIST leadership. From 2013 to 2022, Mr. Averill was the Chief of the Materials and Structural Systems Division (MSSD) in the Engineering Laboratory. The MSSD included four groups: the Infrastructure Materials Group, Structures Group, Earthquake Engineering Group, and the Community Resilience Group. The division is also responsible for managing three statutory programs, including the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (for which NIST is the lead agency), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (for which NIST is the lead agency), and the National Construction Safety Team Program. From 2022 to 2023, Mr. Averill was detailed to the National Security Council as the Director for Critical Infrastructure in the Resilience Response Directorate.

Mr. Averill is currently an advisor to the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, was

appointed to two terms on the International Code Council's Means of Egress Committee, has served on the NFPA Life Safety Code Committee (Means of Egress), and was a member of the ASME A17 Task Group developing guidelines for Occupant and Firefighter Use of Elevators During Fire Emergencies.