

POSITION: Principal Consultant and Tutor
ORGANISATION: Serene Safety
INDUSTRY/SECTOR: Consultancy and Training covering all risk and Health, Safety & Environment management areas
SOCIAL:



Member Profile:

Jonathan Reynolds, FIIRSM

In this interview, Jonathan Reynolds highlights his career to date, the reasons why he became a risk and safety management professional and how joining IIRSM can help you build and strengthen your skills, and support professional development.

Tell us about your background, your current role and IIRSM membership grade

I am based in Norwich in Norfolk, East Anglia. I am Principal Consultant and Trainer for Serene Safety, a health and safety consultancy and training provider that I established to share my brand of risk and safety management. I am an IIRSM Fellow.

What prompted you to become a risk and safety management professional?

I was never very academic at school and while spending time working in a large, family-run waste management business hand-sorting through waste as a "waste totter", I learnt valuable skills including operating weighbridges.

My first exposure to the risk and safety management profession came in 2008 when I was asked by the general manager of the business I was employed in to help them 'sort out some compliance issues'. The business sponsored me to complete my NEBOSH National General Certificate. I subsequently moved into the safety team and completed my NEBOSH Diploma in 2013.

Throughout my career, I have had some fantastic mentors, line managers and professionals who have shaped me and my philosophy and this has played a large part in my motivation to establish Serene Safety. I have a vision of what the modern risk and safety management professional should be, how they think, how they should engage with stakeholders and influence their sectors and other professionals.

I chose a career as a risk and safety management professional (or should I say it chose me) for a number of reasons. In particular I find the challenges fulfilling, the people you meet and circumstances you face to be wide-ranging and the ability to influence an organisation with a risk-based mind-set.

Tell us about why you joined IIRSM and how it has helped you

I had always admired IIRSM from afar for many years and after I became aware of its more holistic approach to risk, I knew they were a professional membership body that I wanted to associate with. I joined in April 2022 and have volunteered as Vice-Chairman of its East Anglia Branch.

IIRSM has helped me to interact with other professionals that share my goals. It has given me a network of peers from all backgrounds and a team at headquarters that are easy to contact and actively support you as a member. IIRSM has helped me in such a short period of time.

As Vice-Chairman of the East Anglia Branch, I have been afforded opportunities I never thought I would have had. I want to be able to coach, mentor and advise similar people that were in my position back in 2008.

How can IIRSM membership help risk and safety management professionals?

A risk and safety management professional must wear many hats and have a well-rounded view of business risk, far beyond that of safety and health risk. They need to understand all of the other risks that business leaders face, what drives their decision making when there are many conflicting pressures and how to present risk in a language that business leaders can resonate with. IIRSM has given me an insight into all of these in a way that matches my professional values.