IFR is part of the Fire Department Dortmund and by this guarantees the practical relevance of the research activities. Since 2001 the Fire Department Dortmund / IFR is participating in research projects with a practice-oriented approach together with enterprises, research institutions and universities in Germany and Europe. The research projects are funded e.g. by the European Union and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The involvement covers different roles: In addition to the technical work, IFR takes coordinating roles as well, e.g. acting as the group or work package coordinator.

Actually (01/2015), IFR is partner in ten ongoing projects (e.g. ANCHORS, TRADR) and looks back on 17 completed ones (e.g. GenoPlan, LAGE).
Structure

IFR is part of the fire department Dortmund. At IFR, both scientific work and practical firefighting expertise are combined in a unique way. This is indicated by the first-line management of the institute, a senior fire service officer and a scientific director.

Full-time research associates and fire officers with a direct background in operational duties are also working closely together within the projects. They are supported by student assistants. Many of IFR employees have practical knowledge from fire departments, ambulance services or similar organisations. Hereby, an extensive practical experience exists and application-orientation of the research is guaranteed.

Guiding principles

The institute researches for protection and safety optimization – guided by the following principles:

• **Practice-orientation**
  Operational experience-aligned research and development in the field of fire service and rescue technology focused on the user requirements.

• **Transfer of results and networking**
  The transferability of research results for urban fire and safety organisations as well as industrial protection at other locations is an important objective. Therefore, setup and expansion of technical networks play an important role.

• **Impulses for regional economic progress**
  Scientific institutions and enterprises in Dortmund and its surroundings benefit from project- and research fundings from EU, federal government and state government. In particular direct participation in the projects is attractive.

• **Long-term establishment of a new economic field “international applicable hazard prevention technologies”**

Areas of work and capability

The multidisciplinary team of IFR is active in different areas:

• Specialised contribution to and coordination of application oriented projects together with other research institutions and enterprises
• Compilation and provision of national and international information for the relevant fields of activity
• Contribution to research concepts and expert assessments
• Active cooperation on national and European level

The Fire Department of Dortmund has great and manifold potential for taking over different tasks in research projects, involving an action force of about 750 professionals from fire department and emergency medical services, as well as the same amount being active at the voluntary fire department:

• **Scenario orientation**
  Broad experience from more than 100,000 fire and rescue service operations per year

• **Technical expertise**
  Notable technical equipment and highly qualified staff

• **Organisational expertise**
  Facilities and skills for testing and validating at the fire departments and different organisations