

Principal or Senior Fire Research Engineer

BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand) is looking for a Principal or Senior Fire Research Engineer to undertake industry-good fire research.

We are currently building a world-class fire testing laboratory, which will be operational in 2024, that will replace our existing fire lab.

About the company:

For over 50 years, BRANZ has been based in Judgeford, half an hour from central Wellington, New Zealand's capital city. We employ more than 100 highly-qualified scientists, researchers and professionals and have well-equipped laboratories which support both their research programmes and commercial testing work.

We put a lot of thought and effort into making BRANZ a great place to work. Our people are passionate about the work they do, but we also recognise the importance of a work/life balance.

About the role:

The BRANZ fire research team undertakes a variety of collaborative research activities from looking at the fire risks associated with lithium batteries to building fire-safe densified housing and considering the potential unintended consequences of high-performance buildings.

A key part of the role is to work with industry and other stakeholders and transfer research outputs to them to gain research impact and effect behaviour change in line with the BRANZ strategy. To achieve this, you will be driven to understand the needs and dynamics of these stakeholders within the wider building sector system. A range of activities will be undertaken in the role including modelling and analysing data, through to designing, building and burning fire research experiments. Expect to invest time on stakeholder engagement and knowledge transfer for a variety of audiences (e.g. peer-reviewed scientific papers, industry publications, seminars and webinars). You will also need to keep current with international fire safety trends and understand how they may apply to New Zealand.

BRANZ's new outstanding facilities will allow Fire Research Engineers to conduct large scale physical fire testing research in the biggest laboratory in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Principal or Senior level role would include mentoring more junior researchers and creating, leading and managing research projects and research teams. You may represent BRANZ on New Zealand industry committees such as those related to standards development and New Zealand on international committees. You will be involved in providing feedback from BRANZ's perspective on building regulation related public consultations. You will also be involved with BRANZ-wide initiatives and champion BRANZ science innovation.

You will also work alongside other internationally renowned engineers, scientists and researchers as part of the wider BRANZ team.

To succeed in this role, you will need:

- A post-graduate degree in fire engineering or related field is desirable. Equivalent industry experience and or professional designations may be considered.
- Senior level expertise and experience in fire engineering research (theoretical and experimental) relevant to the built environment.
- Knowledge of the building industry sector trends as it relates to fire engineering.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to present to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- Experience leading fire research projects.
- A collaborative and practical approach, with an enthusiasm to make a difference.
- A willingness to move to New Zealand.

Applications from overseas candidates are welcome and support would be provided to apply for a New Zealand Accredited Employer Work Visa for the successful candidate/s.

To discuss this opportunity or apply for the role, please contact Belinda McKenzie at Scitex Recruitment on 09 525 5520 or email belinda@scitex.co.nz