



A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THEY INVENTED THE FIRECRACKER.

CENTURIES LATER, WE SUGGESTED A FIRE BRIGADE.

One country was responsible for many of the discoveries that helped build the civilised world. Printing, paper and the magnetic compass were all invented in China. And approximately one thousand years ago, so too was gunpowder.

Fast-forward roughly eight hundred years, to nineteenth century Shanghai. By this time, the city was a teeming metropolis and a thriving, cosmopolitan port. But many of the buildings outside the centre remained little more than shacks. In the rickety streets of a city that had, by now, fallen in love with the firecracker, the outbreak of fire had become an unpleasant fact of life.

Unlike Hong Kong or Macau, Shanghai was not a colony. Instead it was a foreign concession in which the English, the Americans and the French all enjoyed a degree of self-government.

Their first response to the frequent conflagrations was to sink wells alongside major roads. But in 1863, the city's first fire engine arrived. Before long, a group of insurance companies had launched the Shanghai Volunteer Fire Service. One of the insurers behind the new brigade would later become RSA.

Much like the original Sun Fire Office in London, our first Shanghai outpost provided a solution to everyday risk. And today, as we mark our 300th anniversary, we continue to support the daily progress of customers across the globe.

From the epic to the everyday, we continue to help the world's people and businesses move forward. To learn more, visit [RSA300.com](https://www.RSA300.com)