



What is BAFSA?

The British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association is the UK’s trade association for the fire sprinkler industry, and will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its foundation in 2014.

BAFSA’s primary objective has not changed since its foundation: ‘To promote the greater and more efficient use of automatic sprinkler and other systems using water as a means of the control and extinguishment of fires’.

It does this by providing authoritative information on the benefits of sprinkler systems and how these can play a significant role in saving life and property from the devastating effects of fire. To these ends, BAFSA works closely with the UK and devolved governments, the fire and rescue service, building control departments, insurers, as well as developers, architects and their clients.

Statistics, both from fire tests and real incidents at home and abroad, indicate that sprinklers have a more than 93% success rate in operating and subsequently controlling or extinguishing a fire . In the UK around 450 people die in fires each year and more than 1200 people suffer injuries . The overall financial cost of fire to the UK is estimated to exceed £7 billion a year. In fires in premises where properly designed and maintained sprinklers are installed, the losses from fire can be reduced by between 50 and 80% depending on the type of property . In addition, sprinklers can provide significant protection for life - multiple fire deaths in sprinklered buildings (where the correct type of equipment has been installed and is

properly maintained) are unheard of. Sprinklers also minimise the risk to firefighters’ lives and the impact of fires on the environment.

While the association is dedicated to making sure that sprinkler systems are installed to the highest professional standards it is not a certification body - however rules adopted in 2010 require all its associate installer members to obtain certification by November 2012 or within two years of joining. BAFSA was the first fire trade association to require its Members to be Third Party Accredited and as early as 1995 all its installer members were so listed.

Like all trade associations, BAFSA derives its strength from its membership and its authority from the fact that its members install more than 85% (by value) of the sprinkler systems installed in the UK. Its manufacturer members provide more than 95% by value of all sprinkler components and equipment used in the UK and all the major sprinkler head manufacturers are members.

Collaboration and Coordination

BAFSA believes that it can best achieve its objectives by collaboration with all groups which share its determination to reduce the ravages of fire. To this end, BAFSA is a founder member of the Sprinkler Coordination Group which brings together the National Fire Sprinkler Network, the European Fire Sprinkler Network, the Business Sprinkler Alliance, the Chief Fire Officers’ Association, London Fire Brigade and a number of insurers. BAFSA also works closely with the Fire Industry Association and the new Fire Sector Federation.



BAFSA regularly participates in exhibitions and other events

Standards Formation

BAFSA represents the views of the industry in a number of British Standards committees concerned with fire protection systems and also participates in European and International standards work.

BAFSA also provides input to other BS, CEN and ISO committees. Recent work has included input into new standards for archive buildings, domestic accommodation and power stations.

How Does BAFSA Deliver?

BAFSA has developed a structure to ensure it is able to effectively develop and deliver its primary objectives of:

- Providing authoritative information on fire sprinkler systems,
- Influencing the development of technical and other standards,
- Lobbying for improvements in building standards and fire legislation.
- Promoting the wider use of sprinkler systems to protect people, property and the environment from the dangers of fire.

BAFSA has been supporting the sprinkler industry for more than 35 years and now has in place a highly effective team of specialist advisors and volunteer leaders to ensure the association's objectives are delivered. Its structure incorporates a number of permanent committees and other groups where volunteers from the industry and supportive organisations meet together to work on tasks and projects in support of the association's objectives and to deliver the outputs (usually in the form of publications or events) set by Council.

In recent years BAFSA has funded extensive, independent research resulting in several publications of record including:

Sprinklers for Safer Living describes the unique fire prevention challenges which are posed by residential care homes, particularly with respect to the elderly and infirm people who live in them. It shows why an automatic sprinkler installation is considered by the fire safety community to be the single most effective fire protection feature in such premises.

Sprinklers for Safety is based on research, funded by BAFSA and undertaken by a fire-engineering consultancy with an international reputation and consolidates the case for the wider and more effective use of sprinkler systems. Across a range of key areas it provides evidence to aid those professionals making decisions about the incorporation of sprinklers in many different types of buildings.

Published in May 2012, ***Safer High Rise Living*** is a project-based study which demonstrates that it is cost-effective and practical to retrofit sprinklers in existing high-rise tower blocks.

BAFSA Technical Guide No 1 *The Design and Installation of Residential and Domestic Sprinkler Systems* provides key information on the design and installation of sprinklers in residential and domestic premises and supplements the advice provided in British Standards and other documents.

BAFSA Technical Guide No 2 *Using Sprinkler Systems in Buildings and Structures* is an unique publication which reviews all the references to sprinklers in buildings in legislation, codes of practice and standards documents. It is intended to provide 'one-stop' access to a range of information to demonstrate the benefits of incorporating automatic fire suppression into a particular building design. It is intended to assist all those involved in the building process, such as property developers, authorities having jurisdiction, architects, designers and end users to determine which approach to compliance with building regulations is the most advantageous and includes consideration of cost savings which can be achieved.

BAFSA Technical Guide No 3 *Watermist Systems* is a publication developed jointly with the Fire Industry Association and provides easy access to a range of authoritative information to illustrate the benefits of incorporating watermist fire suppression into a particular building design. It also enables regulators and end-users to make informed choices on whether a watermist system is the appropriate type of fire suppression for the fire risk.

BAFSA Information Files (BIFs) are a range of monographs covering all aspects of sprinkler protection ranging from the use of sprinklers in the protection of historic buildings through to the implications of the use of biodiesel fuel in fire pumps. The list of topics covered is constantly being amended and updated.



A current list of all BAFSA publications can be viewed at: <http://www.bafsa.org.uk/publications>

DVD Presentations

BAFSA has also produced three informative DVD's which provide an insight into the benefits of sprinkler protection.

Sprinklers for Safety - Wise Up to Fire is a general introduction to the problems of fires in our communities and the role a sprinkler system can play in protecting life, property, businesses, communities and the environment.

Sprinklers for Safer Living promotes the benefits of fire sprinkler systems where people live. For the general audience it provides excellent basic information about sprinklers and how they work. For potential users, such as specifiers, developers and planners – and particularly if they are coming new to the concept – it shows how vital such systems can be for domestic or residential premises.

A third DVD, ***Safer High Rise Living*** detailing the Callow Mount pilot high-rise project (see below) is also available.

Many BAFSA publications and the DVD's can be obtained free of charge.

Research Projects

Building on the success of the Arup Fire research commissioned by BAFSA (published as *Sprinklers for Safety and Sprinklers for Safer Living*) in 2011/2 BAFSA funded independent research undertaken by BRE Global for the Chief Fire Officers Association on the cost-benefits of residential sprinkler systems and for work on the impact of fires on the environment undertaken by Bureau Vertitas for the Business Sprinkler Alliance.

Further work involving a BSA project to review the cost-benefits of sprinklers in warehouses is also supported by BAFSA.

The most significant expenditure undertaken by BAFSA is the funding of a project to design and install a residential sprinkler system in an occupied high-rise accommodation block in Sheffield. This project, funded entirely by BAFSA's membership has successfully challenged suggestions that retrofitting sprinklers into such properties is impracticable and not economically viable. BAFSA was delighted to be provided with additional funding through a grant from the International Fire Sprinkler Association which was designated to promulgate information on the success of project.

Information Service

BAFSA is pleased to answer any questions you may have about sprinkler systems, their design, installation and maintenance. The service is available to both members (at no cost) and non-members (normally no charge will be levied for this). Each year we receive and deal with more than 1000 enquiries. However, a good place to start if you have a question about sprinklers is our BAFSA Information File No 6 ***Frequently Asked Sprinkler Questions***. This has recently been revised and updated and can be viewed and downloaded from: <http://www.bafsa.org.uk/publications>

Seminars and Events

BAFSA provides a wide range of seminars and events for its members and others. In particular we are also pleased to provide speakers (at no cost) to undertake delivery of a range of short seminars (many of which carry CPD status) for the fire and rescue service, building control departments and other local authority departments. These events can also be delivered to groups of architects and other building professionals.

BAFSA organises a biennial conference and exhibition (Fire Sprinkler 2012 is in Leicester and Fire Sprinkler 2014 is in the City of London) as well as two members' meetings each year.

Why Join BAFSA?

BAFSA welcomes applications for membership from all parts of the sprinkler industry and from those organisations which have an interest in the promotion of sprinkler protection as the most effective way of protecting life and property from the effects of fire. Its present membership includes sprinkler installers from the very largest multinationals to sole traders and also includes more than half the UK's fire and rescue services. We also welcome applications from fire consultants and insurers.



Highlight of the BAFSA year is the annual dinner

BAFSA is a democratic organisation, promoting an all-inclusive approach and is the only UK trade association which represents all parts of the sprinkler industry. BAFSA's funding comes solely from its members and its activities are therefore solely directed to benefiting the interests of those members and the wider public good.

BAFSA represents and provides services for all parts of the sprinkler industry, large and small and all its members are entitled to take part in all of its activities and all its various groups, committees and forums. Any company or organisation with an interest in the UK sprinkler industry should join BAFSA and participate in all its activities. It is your industry. It is only by having a strong trade association that we can influence future legislation.

BAFSA is seeking to actively increase its membership from among Fire and Rescue Services. It readily recognises the skills set of fire service personnel and in return Fire and Rescue Services will be able to share their expertise with members of the wider sprinkler industry in such vital areas as standards, policy, cost effectiveness and lobbying. In this way BAFSA sprinkler industry members will also benefit from the Fire and Rescue Services input into the organisation. BAFSA has on its staff experienced former fire safety personnel, one of whom is now engaged wholly on liaising with the service, CFOA and the Fire Brigades Union.

Membership Benefits

These include free attendance at (usually) two members' meetings each year, free hard copies of all BAFSA publications and DVDs (with additional copies supplied for distribution to clients etc at no cost), a technical information service, access to a members' only area of the web site, early warning of changes in standards or technical documentation, representation in standards committees, support in matters related to building control and the fire and rescue service. Members also benefit from discounts on the cost of places at the annual dinner and biennial conference.

Membership Grades, Subscriptions and Application Form

At present, applications are accepted from sprinkler installers who hold Third Party Certification from a UKAS -accredited certification body. The level of membership and subscription depends on the certification level. Uncertificated installers may join as associate members provided they undertake to obtain certification within 24 months of becoming a member.

Suppliers and manufacturers (including sprinkler head manufacturers) who hold a product listing from BRE Certification/LPCB or other recognised test house may apply for membership as a 'Supplier and Manufacturer'. Other suppliers of sprinkler-related products and services may apply for associate membership as can consultants, insurers and individual fire and rescue services.

Full details of membership, subscriptions and access to an application form can be found at: <http://www.bafsa.org.uk/join.html>

Presented by



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