

Sprinkler Saves submits report to NFCC ahead of Government decision on BB100

Ahead of the much-anticipated review of BB100 for England, BAFSA's sprinkler ambassador and the driving force behind the website, Sprinkler Saves UK, has compiled a report for the NFCC to form part of the industry's case to Government to make sprinklers mandatory in all new schools in England as they are in Scotland and Wales.

The report details case studies where sprinklers have actuated having an impact involving educational premises. It covers 10 sprinkler saves reported to sprinkler Saves UK, involving schools between the period November 2021 to May 2023, you can click on each activation and read more about the incident. It also contains compound fire data focusing on 65 educational activations for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22 where sprinklers were present, operated by floor, location identifying. Secondary schools accounted for the highest number of incidents.

Half of the incidents were malicious with the location involving toilets or a changing room – which highlights the problem of arson in schools. Nick then details several incidents in depth to demonstrate how effective sprinklers have been in school fires. He says: "School fires have a devastating impact on both a school and a community. Every year many schools are damaged or destroyed by fires, affecting the education of pupils across the country causing millions of pounds worth of damage.

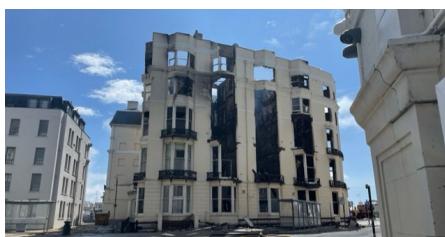
The read the full report – <https://www.bafsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Reported-school-sprinkler-activations-for-NC.pdf>.

Two hotel fires, two different outcomes this summer

In July London Fire Brigade reported an electrical fire that broke out in a hotel of nine floors resulting in the activation of the commercial premises sprinkler system.

One sprinkler head was activated containing, controlling the fire before the arrival of the fire service. The sprinkler system was interfaced with the fire detection and fire alarm system allowing the appropriate emergency action/response to be implemented. Fire spread was limited to the item first ignited. Investigations are ongoing to the cause of the fire, which is reported to involve electrical wiring, cabling.

When you compare this to the Brighton, Royal Albion Hotel Fire also in July 2023 the outcome was so much different. This was a 15-pump fire requiring two aerial appliances. It required support from neighbouring FRS including LFB, allowing the incident to be resourced continuously for more than 36 hours.



There was severe property damage to the Grade 11 listed building and major ongoing traffic disruption in Brighton following the fire due to the closure of the main coast road allowing the dangerous façade to be partially demolished.

"These were devastating consequences for the owners of the business. The hotel had to cease trading while extensive repairs were completed, bookings had to be refunded and jobs were probably lost right in the middle of the holiday season – not to mention the impact on business reputation. Pictures speak a thousand words, if sprinklers had been fitted would we have seen a different outcome?"

Nick Coleshill BAFSA Sprinkler Ambassador

Tall building kitchen fire Birmingham

On the 26 June, Triangle Fire Systems were called to reinstate the residential sprinkler system following a kitchen fire on the 11th floor of a residential block of flats following the activation of one sidewall sprinkler head (VK480). The system was back online within 45mins of their arrival.

Birmingham council should be applauded for their continued commitment to providing its residents with the highest level of fire safety by retrofitting sprinklers in all their high-rise residential block of flats. The specification, design of the residential sprinkler system (BS9251:2014) for each individual premises was bespoke which included but not limited to:

Category 2/3
VK480 Sprinkler heads
Water supply 60-minute tank (16000L)

Enhancements:
Dual Pumps
Back-up power supply diesel generator
FRS inlet
Remote monitoring

The fire was contained to the compartment of origin by the activation of one sidewall sprinkler head. Fire damage was limited to the area in the vicinity of the kitchen wall unit directly above the source of ignition. The water spray from the activated sidewall sprinkler head was partially obstructed (shielded fire) by the kitchen wall unit located directly above the heat source, which didn't impact the operational efficiency of the sprinkler system. This incident clearly reinforces the data contained within the BAFSA Incident Data Report No 3 that inside the flats of purpose-built flats, the kitchen start location accounted for the highest number of incidents where sprinklers were recorded as having been involved or actuated.



credit: Triangle fire systems limited

This incident clearly reinforces the data contained within the [BAFSA Incident Data Report No 3](#) that inside the flats of purpose-built flats, the kitchen start location accounted for the highest number of incidents where sprinklers were recorded as having been involved or actuated.



SPRINKLER SAVES
UPDATE NO:2

WE NEED YOUR HELP



See a Sprinkler Save - then report it!

In order to make sprinklers the norm and not the exception - we need the evidence.

BASFA sprinkler ambassador Nick Coleshill is calling on all UK Fire & Rescue Service heads to encourage their operational and fire protection staff to report successful sprinkler activations via BAFSA's Sprinkler Saves website.

"Encouraging the FRS to promote, collate, report sprinkler activations to Sprinkler Saves UK will help to create a central and comprehensive record of fire incidents where sprinklers played their role in containing/controlling or extinguishing the fire," says Nick.

All sprinkler activations can be reported by FRS using the Sprinkler Saves sprinkler activation reporting form at www.sprinklersaves.co.uk.

Where available, approved images would be welcome to support any save.

Thank you for your support.
If you have any questions. please contact me, Nick Coleshill, BAFSA sprinkler ambassador at: nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

bafsa