



Final call Sprinkler Saves for the year 2023/24

Some 60 incidents have been reported to BAFSA's [Sprinkler Saves](#) so far this year, but we are issuing a final call for any outstanding sprinkler activations to be submitted before the end of March so that they can be collated as part of our annual *Sprinkler Saves Review*.

The annual reviews provide a comprehensive database of sprinkler saves - providing further evidence, if needed, of the effectiveness of AFSS in containing and controlling fires - saving FRS's time and resources, property and ultimately lives.

[If you would like to submit details of a save, please click here.](#)



SPRINKLER SAVES
UPDATE NO 4: SPRING 2024

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 a 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.



Image credit, Mhairi Edwards/ DC Thomson.

Sprinkler Save at Dundee School

Date of Activation: July 2023

The benefits of sprinklers for malicious acts within schools is clearly demonstrated following a West End Dundee School campus activation.

Summary of incident

- Unidentified youths were seen entering the grounds of the campus. They proceeded to start a fire below the underside of an overhanging canopy adjacent to the external wall of the premises.
- The fire spread vertically into the underside of the canopy percolating into the wall cavity.
- Scottish Fire Rescue Service (SFRS) were mobilised, proceeded to extinguish the fire.
- Unknown to fire crews the initial fire compromised the brickwork at ground floor level, adjacent to the Internal storeroom.
- Radiated heat from the brickwork ignited the inner OSB sterling board spreading to the timber frame/rock based mineral fibre board.

- This caused the inner plasterboard to fail and collapse allowing the fire to spread within the storeroom.
- The pendent sprinkler head was activated, alerting SFRS who were still tackling the incident.
- The fire was contained, controlled, and believed to have been extinguished by the activation of one sprinkler head preventing further fire damage within the premises.
- The danger of arson within schools was recently highlighted once again following the fire at Blatchington Mill School Hove on the 17 January 2023. It was reported on the BBC website that a girl, 16 is being held on suspicion of arson with fire damage sustained to a section of the ground floor of the premises.

BAFSA comment: Sprinklers should be mandatory for all new build schools within England following the lead of Scotland and Wales.

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



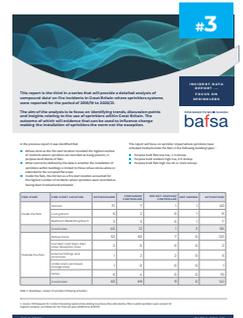
Sprinklers tackle bin chute fires

Date of incident:
16 January 2024

London refuse store fire illustrates findings contained within the BAFSA Incident data report that sprinklers do effectively extinguish/contain refuse store fires.

London Fire Brigade were called a refuse/storeroom fire within a residential purpose-built block of flats. The fire had been extinguished by the activation of one sprinkler head, containing the fire to room of origin, requiring crews only to dampen down and turn over the seat of the fire. Hats off to Barking & Dagenham Council who made the decision in 2015/16 to install fire sprinkler systems within all their 22 high-rise blocks waste bin chute rooms.

This reinforces the data contained within the BAFSA incident report where sprinklers were reported as having an impact for the period of 2018/2019 to 2020/21. Refuse stores accounted for the highest number of incidents with 141 located outside the flat. Out of those 141 sprinkler activations outside of premises, refuse fires accounted for the highest number of incidents, 123. In refuse store fires sprinklers extinguished 53 (43%) incidents with a further 63 (51%) incidents being contained or controlled.



Credit image Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service

Havant tall building fire extinguished by sidewall sprinkler head

Date of Incident: 19 February 2024

The decision taken by a Havant Housing Association to install sprinklers was paid dividends following a kitchen fire.

Operational crews were mobilised to reports of a sprinkler alarm actuating within a residential high-rise block. On arrival it was identified that a fire within a kitchen flat had been extinguished following the activation of one sidewall sprinkler head. The cause of the fire was established to have involved a cooking appliance.

At the time of the fire the kitchen door was closed which contained the fire, limiting fire damage to the room of origin. This demonstrates the benefits of passive fire safety measures in providing effective fire protection shows both passive and active elements working in unison and complementing the roles of each other.

This incident once again identifies the benefits of sprinklers playing a significant role, as part of an appropriate package of fire safety measures in reducing the impact of fire on people, property, and the environment.

Sprinklers extinguish Essex Halls of Residence kitchen fire

Date of Incident: 7 December 2023

An incident involving a 5th-floor communal kitchen fire within a 6-storey tall building involving a hot oil spillage from a chip pan fire was extinguished by the actuation of one concealed sprinkler head contained to the room of origin with no injuries reported. Upon activation, the onsite security staff implemented the premises' emergency plan in accordance with the buildings' fire strategy.

Student Halls of Residence are undoubtedly a challenging environment from a fire safety perspective. The student's lifestyle is typically associated with a reduced level of caution when it comes to appreciating risk. The dangers of cooking related fires were reinforced from Home Office fire statistics, 66% of the 160 plus fires attended by fire rescue services at Student Halls of Residence in 2019/20 were started by cooking appliances.

This incident clearly identifies the benefits of sprinklers involving chip pan fires, this is the seventh incident reported to www.sprinklersaves.co.uk putting the myth to bed that residential sprinklers as an extinguishing media should not be used on fires involving chip pans. On each occasion the fire was extinguished, controlled/contained.

Full comprehensive reports for all the above-mentioned sprinkler saves and many more can be found by visiting www.sprinklersaves.co.uk