

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA) welcomes new guidance for sprinklers in all new care homes in England

BAFSA hopes that the requirement for sprinklers in all new care homes, irrespective of building height, from 2 March 2025 will be a launch pad encouraging the Government to support the fitting of sprinkler systems in other sleeping accommodation, such as specialised housing, to prevent the spread of fire and protect some of our most vulnerable members of our communities.

The benefits of sprinklers within care homes was clearly demonstrated following a Kent residential care home sprinkler activation which successfully contained, controlled and extinguished a fire involving upholstered furniture. The sprinkler system maintained the care homes' continuity of providing care to the residents with minimal disruption.

Read more about this save here [Click here to open link](#)

bafsa



SPRINKLER SAVES
UPDATE NO 6: WINTER 2024

Your quarterly digest of sprinkler activations from up and down the UK reported to the Sprinkler Saves UK website and compiled by BAFSA's Sprinkler Ambassador Nick Coleshill

Brighton assisted living complex save

This is the third reported dwelling fire within this complex in Brighton in the space of 29 months. On each occasion the fire was contained, controlled or extinguished with limited fire damage reported and no injuries reported.

The fire broke out due to a heat pad coming into contact with bedding contaminated with emollient. One concealed residential sprinkler head was activated inside the bedroom and the fire was successfully extinguished.

This demonstrates again that the operation of a correctly designed residential sprinkler system, installed to the appropriate codes and standards, reduces the rate of production of heat and smoke, allowing more

time for occupants to escape to safety or be rescued.

Station Manager Louisa Curtis of East Sussex Fire Rescue Service, Brighton & Hove Fire Safety Team Manager, said:

"ESFRS have consistently promoted for the installation of sprinklers, it is a simple, cost-effective way to save more lives and reduce the risks to firefighters. Fire sprinklers are the only active fire system which detects a fire, suppresses a fire and raises the alarm. This incident demonstrates sprinklers provide protection from fire damage but most importantly provide time for people to safely self-evacuate if there is a fire."

Read more about this Sprinkler Save here: [Click here to open](#)



Image Credit East Sussex Fire Rescue Service

WE NEED YOUR HELP



Fire & Rescue Service funded sprinkler saves case study request

Following the publication of our third *Sprinkler Saves Review 2023/2024*, reinforcing the vital role sprinklers play in fire safety, we are reaching out for the support of our Fire & Rescue Service colleagues to share case studies which could be promoted in our next review (2024/2025) identifying where a fire has been successfully contained/controlled or in some cases extinguished by the premises sprinkler system funded from an FRS match funding sprinkler project.

For example, London Fire Brigade provided £84,250 allocated from a fire prevention grant received from The Government in 2014 to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for the installation of a residential sprinkler installation within an extra care housing unit.

Seven years after this installation, the premises had a fire within a dwelling involving smoking materials which activated the sprinkler system which was able to contain and control the fire with fire damage limited to the compartment of origin.

The decision taken by the LFB in 2014 to launch the match funding sprinkler campaign should be applauded. Without this initiative the outcome of this incident could have been so much different.



Sprinkler investment proves its worth in South Wales

Bron Afon Community Housing Association should be applauded for leading the way in fire safety in Wales, having taken the decision to retrofit sprinklers in 2011 in one of their high-rise residential blocks. The housing association worked closely South Wales Fire Rescue Service at the time and set an example to other housing associations in the area.

Some 13 years later, the sprinkler system within this 12-storey residential block of flats was activated when a chip pan that was left unattended by a resident, caught fire. The activation of the sprinkler system gave the residents time to self-evacuate from their flat before the arrival of the Fire & Rescue Service.

Catherine Love, Bron Afon Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive said at the time of the sprinkler installation: "Sprinkler systems are the most effective way of fighting fire and preventing loss of life. We are proud that this work is setting an example."

Read more about this Sprinkler Save here [Click here to open](#)

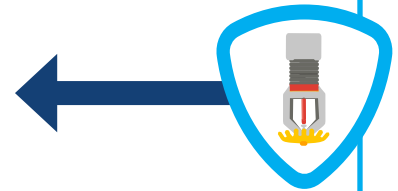


Reporting Sprinkler Saves to MP's

To raise awareness of the good work that sprinklers do, BAFSA is launching a new initiative to provide authoritative information to local MP's on the benefits of sprinkler systems and how sprinklers can play a significant role in saving life and property from the devastating effects of fire by reporting sprinkler saves from their constituency.

This will help us in our continued campaign to lobby government to introduce tougher sprinkler rules making the installation and retrofitting of sprinklers mandatory in all buildings we are particularly concerned about:

- Buildings housing vulnerable residents
- Residential buildings
- Schools
- Carparks
- Storage and warehouses
- Hospitals



We welcome the Government's proposal to install sprinklers in all new purpose-built care homes but urge further action on other buildings housing vulnerable members of the community such as specialised housing regardless of height.



National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN)

From NFSN Secretary Terry McDermott QFSM

Sprinkler Saves UK demonstrate perfectly the value of sprinklers in buildings. The case studies bring to life the many previous studies into the effectiveness of sprinkler systems with evidence captured at real life incidents where sprinkler have been present.

The case studies show the broad range of buildings and environments where sprinklers have activated and operated as per the system design and prevented fire growth.

The National Fire Sprinkler Network is a keen supporter of the BAFSA Sprinkler Saves website and encourages all its UK Fire and Rescue members to continue to support the website by submitting reports to create a one stop repository demonstrating the effectiveness of sprinklers.

Further information on the role of the NFSN can be found by visiting: www.nfsn.uk

Devon tall building bathroom emollient save

If it was not for the decision taken by the social housing landlord to retrofit residential sprinkler systems following the tragic events of the Grenfell Fire throughout their high-rise residential blocks of flats property portfolio, we could be discussing a totally different outcome following an accidental fire involving a naked flame (lit cigarette) which came into contact with a bathroom towel contaminated with emollient. This resulted in the fire burning quickly and intensely activating one sidewall sprinkler head within the bathroom. The sprinkler extinguished the fire and no injuries were reported

Read more about this Sprinkler Save here [Click here to open](#)



London Sprinkler Activations September 2024

Our gratitude to London Fire Brigade (LFB) for their ongoing support reporting monthly updates taken from the incident recording system where sprinklers were reported as present and having an impact in Greater London, playing a key leadership role in promoting the benefits of sprinklers, reporting real life tangible incidents.

Table 1, IRS Primary fire data where sprinklers were present

No	Date of Incident	Location	Use of building	Location of fire	Firefighting action	Fire Spread	Number of system heads operated	Location of System	Firefighting system impact
1	1 September 2024	Havering	Purpose Built Flats/ Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	Living room	Hose reel (high pressure) (HRJ) - tank supply only	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished
2	3 September 2024	Lambeth	Purpose Built Flats/ Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	Other	Main branch/ Jet (J)	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	On same floor as fire	Contained/ Controlled
3	4 September 2024	Brent	Hotel/motel	Corridor/Hall	Disconnection of fuel supply		0	On same floor as fire	Not known
4	6 September 2024	Islington	Purpose Built Flats/ Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	Bedroom	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	0	Different floor from fire	Not known
5	12 September 2024	Brent	Food and drink processing	Process/ Production room	Main branch/ Jet (J)	Limited to item 1st ignited	0	In room of origin of fire	Did not contain/ control
6	16 September 2024	Bexley	Factory	Process/ Production room	Hose reel (high pressure) (HRJ) - tank supply only	Limited to item 1st ignited	0	On same floor as fire	Did not contain/ control
7	16 September 2024	Tower Hamlets	Purpose built office	Office	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	0	In room of origin of fire	Did not contain/ control
8	16 September 2024	Lambeth	Student Hall of Residence	Bedroom	Immersed in water	Limited to room of origin	0	In room of origin of fire	Not known
9	22 September 2024	Croydon	Self-contained Sheltered Housing	Kitchen	No firefighting		0	On same floor as fire	Did not contain/ control

Of the nine incidents reported two had an impact within Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes – 10 or more storeys where the fire was either contained/controlled or extinguished by the activation of 1 sprinkler head.

Reference is made that for the remaining 7 incidents that the firefighting impact was either not known or did not contain/control, supplementary information from the LFB provided further context allowing the rationale for these anomalies identifying 3 key areas:

- Fault in the AFSS
- Sprinkler system coverage was not provided within the fire affected area
- insufficient heat from the fire to activate the sprinkler head

The following advice is intended for building managers (Individuals who have responsibility for fire safety within a building).

It is paramount that fire protection measures in buildings can function effectively in the event of a fire. To achieve this:

- **Maintenance**, the premises fire protection measures should be maintained periodically in accordance with the relevant standards and codes, to ensure they are always operational and available.
- **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order**, it is a requirement for the responsible person to implement the appropriate arrangements for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring of the preventive and protective measures.



Image Credit Nationwide fire sprinklers, NFRS

Nottinghamshire tall building student accommodation save

Fire crews were mobilised to reports of a confirmed fire within a six-storey purpose-built student accommodation block in Nottinghamshire.

On arrival the officer in charge established that one concealed sprinkler head within a cluster flat bedroom had actuated containing/controlling the fire to the room of origin. This allowed the student, who was unaware of the fire until the bedroom door containing the fire was opened, to get to a place of safety.

Minimal firefighting was required by NFRS to extinguish the fire with only superficial

fire, heat, and smoke damage sustained within the room of origin. It was established the cause of the fire was due to embers from a stubbed out lit incense candle that had blown on to clothes in a washing basket and caught light.

This incident provides further evidence that the operation of a correctly designed and installed residential sprinkler system installed, maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards reduces the rate of production of heat and smoke, allowing more time for the occupants to escape to safety or be rescued.



WE NEED YOUR HELP



See a Sprinkler Save - then report it!

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 BASFA'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.

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

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