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BAFSA bids farewell

Stewart Kidd who, after 15 years as BAFSA's Secretary General, is retiring and will formally hand over the reins to the new Chief Executive, Keith MacGillivray on 1st January.

On his time with BAFSA Stewart reflected "All you need is NOT love, I'd suggest, but sprinklers. Why don't we stop being conciliatory to the other parts of the fire industry and just come out with what we believe is the truth? Self-evidently, if you sprinkler protect a building you don't need anything else other than a few exit signs and maybe some lighting units. That is perhaps the message we should be delivering to the DCLG as they consider the need for revisions to Approved Document B – I'm sure that the Minister for Building would be delighted to be told that provided ALL new buildings were sprinkler protected there would be no need for an AD-B at all.

I came to BAFSA a sprinkler advocate, I leave as a sprinkler evangelist. If I had the figure for it I'd walk the highways and byways preaching the gospel according to St Mather and St Platt."

"Stewart Kidd has played a phenomenal role as Secretary General for the last fifteen years and I know he will be a hard act to follow", Keith told FOCUS "I would like to thank Stewart on behalf of all our Members for the tremendous work he has done".

"Looking forward to 2016, I hope I can increase the membership of BAFSA and increase the benefits for all BAFSA members. BAFSA's strength is in the high qualities



"I would like to thank Stewart on behalf of all our Members for the tremendous work he has done"

Keith MacGillivray

and professionalism demonstrated by its members, I look forward to continuing that support both in accreditation, training and development. I would also very much welcome feedback from our Membership on what other ways BAFSA can support you?"

"It gives me great pleasure to wish all our Members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2016."

from the Chairman

Another year is coming to a close. 2015 can be remembered for many things, but here are the highlights.

Stewart Kidd hands over after 15 very successful years at the helm to Keith McGillivray MBE. Our thanks to Stewart for his efforts and best wishes for the future.

After 3 years work in the Skills and Development area. We launched the IQ Qualification at Manchester, and Neath Port Talbot. This will continue to be a major focus going forward, and we need your continued support if this effort is to be sustainable, and to address the skill shortage that exists in our Industry.

Our partnership with the FPA has worked well during the year with the successful completion of the update in the LPC's sprinkler rules. In addition we were very much involved in the BS9251:2015 R&D update, as well as the new BS watermist standards, and update on the LPS 1048 v5 scheme.

Our BIFs continue to be very much in demand, as well as our Warehouse Roadshows, and other seminars.

The recently well attended AGM and Dinner was a success. Your new council has been elected for 2016, and will elect the Chair/ Vice Chair and Treasurer for 2016 in January.

I could not possibly cover all the other good things that have happened during the year here. But the most important thing is BAFSA continues to grow from strength to strength, this will only continue with your ongoing support.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the complements of the season and my very best wishes for 2016.

John McCann

A lasting injection of energy & enthusiasm

One man who has worked tirelessly alongside Stewart through those years is Peter Armstrong BAFSA Chairman 2000-2014 and as members and their guests said their formal goodbyes at the 2015 BAFSA Dinner, Peter had this to say: "When I took the Chair in 2000 my first job was to appoint a new Secretary General. I had never seen or heard of Stewart Kidd but you came highly recommended by one of our life members Mr Leslie Heaviside. Leslie did much for our industry over many years but I would suggest that the biggest service he did our industry was to point us in the direction of Stewart Kidd to be our Secretary General.

At that time our Association needed a kick up the backside and to realise that there was life outside of the LPC. All we seemed to do was discuss the LPC rules and the LPS1048 scheme. Stewart you brought us many new contacts, took us to new places I'd never heard of and recruited an excellent team of staff to help us put BAFSA on the map. I can't think of any other person who could have injected so much energy and enthusiasm into the Association. You charged in at full speed and have never slowed down since.

Stewart, I know that we have not always seen eye to eye but you quickly realised that if you waited long enough I would eventually come round to your way of thinking – a bit like the wife I guess!

Working with you has been an educational excursion which I will never forget.

Stewart was presented with a bronze armillary sphere to mark his retirement. On presenting the armillary, Peter went



on to say: "Sometimes I am allowed to go home in time for the 6.00pm news and this is preceded by a television programme 'Pointless'. The contestants often win nothing but are told by the host Alexander Armstrong that they've been brilliant and they take away the coveted Pointless Trophy, a block of frosted glass, bearing the word 'Pointless'. I hope Stewart that you do not see our gift tonight as *pointless* but that you will see it as a sincere manifestation of the appreciation and gratitude of all of our members for everything that you have done for our Association over the last 15 years.

Stewart I can do no better than to return to Alexander Armstrong's words and say Stewart, you have been brilliant and you have won everything -the admiration, respect and gratitude of all of our members..."

NB Stewart does not get away that easily and will be working with Keith and the Executive on a number of projects in the coming year.

LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations

The FPA has published the LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations incorporating BS EN 12845:2015. Here Simon Bird of the Fire Protection Association considers the 2015 edition, which BAFSA was closely involved in revising.

The LPC Rules for Automatic Sprinkler Installations (or “LPC Rules”) has been updated to form the 2015 edition of the publication. The Fire Protection Association (FPA) produces the LPC Rules, drawing together input and expertise from a wide variety of sources. The LPC Rules captures many decades of experience, research, development and lessons learned in the design, specification and maintenance of automatic sprinkler installations. In doing so, the document forms an invaluable reference to those designing and installing or requiring sprinkler protection.

This update is produced in response to the publication of a new version of the base document; BS EN 12845:2015 “Fixed firefighting systems - Automatic sprinkler systems - Design, installation and maintenance” and as part of the routine process of maintaining the Technical Bulletins to ensure they remain as current as possible. BS EN 12845:2015 contains a modest number of changes, both technical and editorial. Notably it introduces ESFR (Annex P - Early Suppression Fast Response) and CMSA (Annex N - Control Mode Specific Application) sprinkler protection design concepts to the BS EN 12845 text for the first time. The FPA considered it necessary to augment both of these annexes with further technical guidance (by way of Technical Bulletins TB209 and TB235) in order to achieve what we regard as a contemporary level of best practice.

BS EN 12845:2015 also introduces a requirement for annual third party inspection of installed sprinkler installations (clause 21), as has been established practice in continental Europe for a long time. Whilst this may be viewed as imposing additional burden upon sprinkler system users, it is a fact that concerns about maintenance and condition of systems are one of the most conspicuous complaints we continue to hear at the FPA. Indeed, this new requirement may only be a reasonable expression of what the various fire safety regulations would expect anyway; that fire safety provisions demonstrably properly maintained. Nevertheless, we acknowledge this is a significant change for the UK and we hope that it achieves a positive impact for levels of fire safety and protection.



Other notable changes made in the LPC Rules include:

- Updates to referencing and editing to suit BS EN 12845:2015 throughout
- LPC Rules “Introduction” section: updated to suit latest edition. Guidance reinstated about conventions and significance of: text notes, table notes, normative and informative annexes.
- Updates to BS EN 12845 ‘tabbing’ from margins to Technical Bulletins
- TB201 Suitable sprinkler components and services: Updates in relation to quality of components and related approvals. Updates to referencing
- TB203 Care and maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems: pump set servicing and maintenance minimum requirements checklist added. Commentary and recommendations on ROVs (remotely operated vehicles) and tank reconditioning added. Clarifications added regarding BS EN Clause 21 Third party inspection
- TB207 The selection of sprinkler heads: changes made consistent with updates to BS EN 12845 (2015), TB234 (2015) and TB209 (2015)
- TB210 Automatic sprinkler pump installation: changes to stalled rotor currents and other electrically power supply issues
- TB214 Sprinkler protection of flammable liquid stores: changes to head sensitivity requirements
- TB216 Sprinkler protection of aerosols: changes to design of in-rack protection (uppermost level of in-rack heads)
- TB221 Sprinkler protection of schools: clarification to Scope
- TB229 LPC Rules for automatic sprinkler installations variations to BS EN 12845 (2015): change to hazard classification of laundries. Changes to TB229.T6 - Maximum size of wet pipe and pre-action installations. Clarification of required accuracy of calculations
- TB233 Water supplies for systems intended to comply with (ADB) Approved Document B life safety systems: Editing (including title change) to suit BS EN 12845 (2015)
- TB234 Protection of High Hazard Storage (HHS) configurations: correction of errors, introduction of a further design solution for scenarios featuring an excessive ceiling clearance above the top of stored goods
- TB235 Control Mode Specific Application (CMSA) Sprinklers: new TB providing requirements and advice to potential users of new BS EN 12845 (2015) Annex N on CMSA sprinklers
- Supplementary guidance added/ updated on: Sprinklers and smoke venting and Legionella

The LPC Rules can be purchased from the Fire Protection Association. All BAFSA members are entitled to a preferential purchase prices. Telephone: 01608 812500 or email: sales@thefpa.co.uk

Important changes to BS : 9991

This latest publication from BSI replaces the previous 2011 edition, writes Ian Gough, BAFSA Technical Adviser, contains some important changes. BAFSA members will be particularly interested to note the advice being given to install automatic water based fire suppression systems in flats where the occupants are not capable of independent evacuation and 'accessible and adaptable housing'.

BS 9991 : 2015 Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings. Code of practice exists to help people ensure adequate fire safety measures are put in place in residential buildings. This includes structural protection, fire detection, alarm systems and fixed fire-fighting systems.

The 2015 revision provides a full technical update, to take into account new and revised standards. This includes the changes brought about by BS 9251: 2014 and the new 'hazard categories' plus the advice given when sprinklers are used as a 'compensatory feature'.

This Code of practice provides advice and guidance on the design, management and use of residential buildings so that they attain reasonable standards of fire safety for all the people who are in and around them. It covers:

- dwellings (single-family dwelling houses, self-contained flats or maisonettes)
- residential accommodation blocks (e.g. for students or hospital staff), with individual bedrooms and the provision of kitchen/sanitary facilities constructed within a fire compartment
- specialised housing

The standard applies to the design of new buildings, and to material alterations, extensions and material changes of use to existing buildings. It does not cover hotels, caravans/mobile homes, hospitals, residential care homes, places of lawful detention or hostels.

BS 9991:2015 also provides guidance on the ongoing management of fire safety in a building throughout the entire lifecycle of the building. This includes guidance for designers to ensure that the overall design of a building assists and enhances the management of fire safety. The recommendations and guidance given are intended to safeguard the lives of building occupants and fire-fighters.



What's new on BS 9991:2015?

BS 9991:2015 presents some major changes, which include:

- change from "sheltered or extra care housing" to "specialised housing" and expansion of related recommendations
- expanded recommendations for escape from basements
- updating of recommendations relating to lifts
- new recommendations for power supplies
- new recommendations for cluster accommodation
- new guidance on the management of additional needs and disabilities
- general update to take into account new and revised standards published since 2011

Furthermore, it is particularly pleasing to note that:

"Where the proposed use of the building requires accommodation to be provided for occupants who are not capable of independent evacuation, the relevant flats and common areas (excluding common corridors and staircases) used by such occupants should be provided with an automatic water based fire suppression." (see 11.1 of BS 9991: 2015).

Missed opportunities

Unfortunately BAFSA regrets a number of missed opportunities to provide more modern and practical advice to building professionals.

Installer members will be particularly aware of the valuable role sprinklers are increasingly playing in allowing for more flexible building design such as in 'open plan' arrangements in many residential projects. Indeed, it is frustrating that the sensible advice provided in the Scottish Technical Handbook for three-storey open plan dwellings is not mentioned here.

Another glaring omission appears to be the lack of acknowledgement of the very important Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure 2011 and the need to install sprinklers in almost all new residential accommodation in Wales after January 1st next year.

How does BS 9991 relate to BS 9999?

BS 9991 complements and aligns with BS 9999, which is a code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings that are not residential. BS 9991:2015 will align with the revised BS 9999, which will be published in 2016.



bafsa
LEVEL 2
QCF

Formal Launch of the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation

After three years of deliberation, discussion, planning and hard work by BAFSA Skills & Development Committee members September and October 2015 saw the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation being successfully launched in England at The Manchester College (TMC). A formal launch of the qualification in Wales took place at Neath Port Talbot College (NPTC)

Lisa O'Loughlin, Deputy CEO and Principal, The Manchester College and Mark Dacey, Principal, Neath Port Talbot College opened the respective events with a warm welcome to BAFSA and were keen to extol the virtue of working in partnership with industry and congratulated BAFSA in their development of a nationally recognised qualification with the content agreed by the industry for the industry.

Mike Green, BAFSA Vice Chair provided the BAFSA vision for the future, one where qualifications and training will be at the forefront of BAFSA activities to attract a new generation of young people into all areas of industry including installation, design, project management and maintenance. The qualification will assist industry to raise its profile and encourage those looking for job opportunities that the Fire Sprinkler Industry is a career to look forward to

Each launch provided BAFSA companies and associated industry representatives the opportunity to meet the key players



in the development and delivery of the qualification whilst having an opportunity to find out a little more about the course content, distance learning (Moodle) and to view the all important training rooms and resources. The event also provided a platform for BAFSA to thank those member companies who had generously donated equipment for the training rooms to the Colleges namely

- Hall Fire Protection Ltd
- Shawston
- IPS Flow Systems
- Victaulic UK
- Armstrong Priestley
- Pyro Protection Ltd
- Project Fire

- Reliable Fire Sprinklers (UK) Ltd
- Tyco Fire Protection Products
- Viking
- Hall & Kay Fire Engineering
- Lubrizol
- Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions

Peter Adock, Hall & Kay and Tim Andrews, Vipond provided the attendees with the 'installer's perspective on the new qualification and how they will be using this qualification to train their new sprinkler engineers in the basics of installing a sprinkler system with hands on training, structured learning and key work skills i.e. H&S, Teamwork bringing new talent into the industry.

Whilst BAFSA are to be congratulated on their hard work in bringing this qualification to fruition it could not have been completed without the support of IQ, BAFSA's preferred Awarding Organisation. Hannah Campbell attended the launch providing a short insight into the quality assurance required of the qualification, thereby ensuring a robust qualification. Again, the partnership of BAFSA and IQ was warmly welcomed.

Ruth Oliver, BAFSA Skills & Qualification Adviser closed the events with further congratulations to the Skills & Development Committee whilst looking to future development activities which will build on the achievement of the Level 2 Qualification.

Two successful events, launching one national qualification that can be supported by all.



John McCann and Keith MacGillivray with some of the L2 students at Manchester College

2015 AGM & Dinner



Dinner

Sparkling wine flowed freely at a reception, sponsored by Henderson Insurance, before 200 members and their guests sat down for the BAFSA 2015 Dinner on 12th November at the Marriot Worsley Park.

It was an evening of celebration and reflection which culminated in a formal farewell to Stewart Kidd complete with presentations from Iain Cox, Chairman of the BSA and one to Keith MacGillivray from Stewart which involved a salutary tale of 3 envelopes ... "A fellow had just been hired as the new CEO of a large organisation. The current CEO met with his replacement and handed him three numbered envelopes.

"Open these if you run up against a problem you don't think you can solve," the first CEO said.



Things went along pretty smoothly for the first six months, but then there were problems and the new CEO began catching a lot of heat. He went to his drawer and took out the first envelope. The message read, "Blame your predecessor."

The new CEO called a press conference and tactfully laid the blame at the feet of the previous CEO. Things picked up and the problem was soon behind him.

About a year later, a series of damaging events affected the organisation. Having

learned from his previous experience, the CEO opened the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganise." This he did, and the company quickly rebounded.

Several years later the organisation fell into difficulty and the CEO went to his office, closed the door and opened the third envelope. The message said, "Prepare three envelopes."

Mysteriously Stewart presented Keith with 5 envelopes!

AGM

At the AGM on 12th November the following were elected to serve as the 2016 Council. The chairman, vice chairman and treasurer will be elected at the Council's first meeting which is on 13 January 2016.

2016 Council Members Installer Representatives (Maximum of nine)

A&F Sprinklers Ltd (Mark Stansfield)
Armstrong Priestley Ltd (Peter Armstrong)
Domestic Sprinklers Ltd (Colin Taylor)
Hall Fire Ltd (Mike Green)
Hall & Kay (Russell Dixon)
Pyro Protection Ltd
(Matthew Smith)
Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions
(Bob Whitely)
Vipond Fire Protection Ltd
(John McCann)
B&C Fire Engineering Ltd (Alan Heath)

Manufacturer and Supplier Representatives (maximum of five)

Rapidrop Global Ltd
Reliable Fire Sprinkler (Roy Sandalls)
Tyco Building Services Products
(Kate Scourfield)
Victaulic (Nick Scull)
Viking SupplyNet (Eddie Pearson)

Associate Member Representatives (maximum of three)

FM Global (Allan Macpherson)
JT Fire Consultants Ltd (Julian Taylor)
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
(Roger Brason)

Following the AGM more than 70 members listened technical presentations

from Simon Bird of the FPA on BS 12845 and Eric Michaelis of BRE Global regarding the changes to LPS 1048 which include:

- Withdrawal of the scheme for supervising bodies
- Introduction of a defined scope
- Revision of the Categories of Work
- Sub-contracting conditions
- Removal of BS 5306-2 in Appendix A1.1 Installations Standards
- Sampling rates defined
- Revision to the Approval of Multisite organisations – Appendix 3
- Change to the scope of LPS 1048 Certificates of Conformity

There followed a lively discussion regarding these changes.

Business Engagement Seminar

In September the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service hosted the 'BAFSA in Scotland Business Engagement Seminar' at their headquarters in Cambuslang. The event opened by Clare Adamson MSP, was attended by over 70 partners from across the sprinkler community. There were several excellent speakers and the event was well received by those attending. Of particular note was the presentation by Optimal Economics on their report commissioned by the Building Standards Division of the Scottish Government, providing an updated position on the cost effectiveness of providing residential sprinklers in Scotland. With recent significant incidents at Shotts prison and 15 rescues from a Glasgow tenement, the need for sprinklers in certain premises is as high now as ever it has been.

Joint sprinkler seminar

A joint BAFSA/West Midlands Fire Service sprinkler seminar was held at the WMFS HQ in Birmingham on 25th November as part of an initiative within the West Midlands to widen the understanding of how sprinklers can be used in a variety of premise types, to reduce the burden of fire on businesses and the community.

With about 70 delegates attending from as far afield as Cornwall and from a variety of fire safety roles within the build environment, the programme was tailored to provide a diverse and interesting discourse and to provoke debate among the audience.

The delegates were welcomed by DCFO Phil Hales with an expressive speech on the life safety benefits of sprinklers, highlighting some recent work within WMFS and the importance of networking to the forward movement for the sprinkler lobby.

One unexpected contributor was Gordon Cooke (fire engineer) highlighting two projects where he had been called upon to help rectify fire safety issues concerning poor specification/ judgement by building managers, involving suppression system choice and alterations to premises. His examples clearly illustrated how important it is to get expert advice before undertaking projects.

BAFSA Sprinkler Village



At the 2015 Fire Sector Summit a Sprinkler Village occupied a large corner of the exhibition hall representing the interests of 4 BAFSA members, the BSA and BAFSA. With information on training from XACT; Blazemaster pipework from Lubrizol; water storage from Balmoral Tanks; Residential & Industrial installations by Vipond and literature addressing most known queries, the BAFSA Sprinkler Village provided a comprehensive, one-stop shop for all sprinkler interests and queries.

In the conference hall BAFSA sponsored a well attended "Warehouse" Workshop



where an audience of more than 70 listened to presentations from Stewart Kidd, the FPA's Jim Glockling and Andy Jones from Buckinghamshire FRS. All delegates were presented with a bag full of relevant information from the "sprinkler village". A well received event was briefly interrupted by a fire alert and everyone mustering in the nearby car park. This proved to be a false alarm and sprinkler supporters re entered the main hall muttering that this wouldn't have happened if the hall had been fitted with sprinklers!



Undeterred by the weather conditions

Despite the wild weather and considerable disruption to road and rail travellers an 80 strong audience attended the Warehouse & Logistics Facilities seminar in Chorley in mid November. Hosted by Lancashire FRS delegates were appreciative of a full day of presentations in the conference room at Washington Hall Training Centre.

This was the sixth of BAFSA's Warehouse Roadshows with Ritchie O'Connell and Steve

Mills speaking about sprinkler effectiveness, business resilience and fire safety management. New to the BAFSA warehouse podium was Peter Eardley from FM Global discussing the "Insurers View".

Warehouse operators and developers attended along with fire safety consultants and local authority representatives and as delegates left, many positive comments were made about the valuable and interesting content of the event.

sprinkler saves

August



19th - high rise flat: London

At 1052hrs, London Fire Brigade was called to a report of 'water issuing from fourth floor' of a 12 storey purpose built block of flats (built circa 2004).

On investigation, crews found that there was a fire inside flat 14 on the 4th floor of the building. The fire had occurred in the kitchen of the two bedroom property and one sprinkler head had opened and suppressed the fire leaving the flat lightly smoke logged.

This is another good example indicating the benefits of sprinklers within domestic premises and how it prevented the development and spread of fire within the flat where the fire started.

Crews attempted to isolate the sprinkler system but in the absence of a clearly marked sprinkler stop valve, had to isolate the supply to the whole block. Two other flats were affected by water ingress.



7th - Leisure Venue: Leicester

On 7th August, Leicester FRS were called at 01:47 to a fire at a kickboxing club in Leicester. They found a fire in the roof space, where a single sprinkler had operated to prevent spread to the rest of the roof space. Only a small area of the roof was damaged.

"A small fire but one which demonstrates the true value of sprinklers in voids and spaced - sometimes resisted by specifiers. Given the time of

day, it's not an exaggeration to suggest that the roof would have been lost prior to the arrival of the FRS in the absence of an AFSS."
BAFSA

September



15th - Flat

Initial information has been received from AES Sprinklers regarding a sprinkler save in a former Workhouse recently converted into 26 flats. A resident who had been smoking in bed went through to the kitchen where he suffered an epileptic seizure. The bed caught fire but was extinguished by a single head operating before the arrival of the fire service. Notably, the resident has not had to be re-housed.



14th - Sheltered Housing: Croydon

London Fire Brigade advise that a sprinkler system in a flat in an 'Extra Care' sheltered housing scheme owned by the London Borough of Croydon successfully operated to extinguish a fire in a kitchen unit. The fire occurred when an electric toaster had ignited a tea towel in close proximity. The occupant was asleep at the time. Responding firefighters, alerted by the waterflow alarm connected to the building's fire detection system, evacuated the resident.

An LFB senior officer later said that there is no doubt that the sprinkler system saved the occupant's life.

"This is the second instance this week of a vulnerable resident's life being saved by a sprinkler system installed by an enlightened housing provider. Credit must also go to LFB for their proactive approach in part funding AFSS in such properties in a number of London boroughs."
BAFSA

October



7th - Flour Mill: Manchester:

At just after 09:30 on Wednesday 7th October, Greater Manchester FRS mobilised five appliances to a report of fire at Rank-Hovis flour mills in Trafford Park, Manchester. On arrival, fire was observed in machinery in the pellet press area and ducting on several levels. It is reported that hose-reels were used to extinguish the fire(s).

Firefighters were greatly assisted as 7 sprinkler heads activated, as did fire dampers in the locality, contributing significantly to controlling the fire prior to their arrival. Due to the combined work of the active systems and fire service actions the plant is reported to have been back in full production after a few days.

November



21st - residential care home: Cheam

An elderly man had a lucky escape from a fire caused by a cigarette in his flat thanks to a sprinkler system.

Firefighters from Sutton and New Maldon were called to a fire at the residential care home in Mickleham Gardens at 2312 hrs and the fire was over at 2347hrs. Fortunately the man had already escaped the flat and his sprinkler system had put out most of the flames. He was treated for shock at the scene and taken to hospital as a precaution.

Sutton fire station manager Richard Field said: "People living in sheltered accommodation and extra care facilities are often very vulnerable to fire. They may have limited mobility or a disability which makes it difficult for them to notice a fire and react quickly".

"It appears the careless disposal of cigarettes was the cause of the fire and if it wasn't for the flat's sprinkler system this fire could have had a very different outcome.

"This close call shows just how vital sprinklers are in care homes and sheltered accommodation - they not only stop fires from spreading, they save lives."
Surrey FRS

UK school sprinkler saves 2013-2015

2013

19th April: Merseyside

At 1052hrs, London Fire Brigade was called to a report of 'water issuing from fourth floor' of a 12 storey purpose built block of flats (built circa 2004).

On investigation, crews found that there was a fire inside flat 14 on the 4th floor of the building. The fire had occurred in the kitchen of the two bedroom property and one sprinkler head had opened and suppressed the fire leaving the flat lightly smoke logged.

This is another good example indicating the benefits of sprinklers within domestic premises and how it pre

24th June: Surrey

A photocopier caught fire due to an electrical fault but the fire had been mostly

extinguished by the school's sprinkler system by the time four fire engines and 25 fire fighters from London Fire Brigade arrived. *

22nd August: Tyne and Wear

A child passing by the school spotted smoke and called the FRS. The school was unoccupied at the time of the fire and firefighters had to break into the building. Thanks to the sprinkler system the fire in the IT server cupboard had already been extinguished. The fire caused significant damage to the IT server equipment but was stopped from spreading further.

October: Surrey

A small fire resulting from an overheating laser cutter was fully extinguished by sprinklers. The FRS responded but by the time they opened the door the fire was out. There was no spread of fire or smoke damage beyond the room of origin. (2nd sprinkler save in 3 months)

15th December: West Yorkshire

A successful sprinkler activation after a fire occurred in a first floor classroom when a heat lamp, placed to provide warmth for a terrapin, ignited the wooden box surround. The fire was 'Out on Arrival' of the fire service resources.

2014

9th January: Northamptonshire

A fire occurred when a plastic storage crate had inadvertently been placed too close to a cooker hob at the school. The hob was accidentally switched on setting the crate alight. Fortunately the school was fitted with a sprinkler system and one head operated to extinguish the fire.

12th March: Leicestershire

Leicestershire FRS were alerted to a fire but the full details were not reported apart from the fact fire was extinguished by the schools sprinkler system, the alarm was raised and damage was limited to less than 5m².

27th March: London

A fire in a gas boiler on the ground floor of the three storey, newly built, primary school. One sprinkler extinguished the fire. The damage was limited to the boiler room itself and the school closed for the day to enable checks and repairs to be carried out to the boiler.

1st May: West Midlands

The fire, understood to have started in a cooling fan, was first tackled by staff with an extinguisher and blanket before one sprinkler head operated on the school's system. The fire was confined to the room of origin and reported as 'Out on Arrival' when the FRS arrived.

June: South Yorkshire

An electrical short circuit set fire to the front reception desk but a nearby sprinkler head activated to extinguish the fire which was classified as Out on Arrival. The College opened for students as normal.

5th November: Hertfordshire

The 2 year old £8.7 million school houses approximately 1500 pupils, of which around 60 are severely mobility impaired and living on the premises. The fire started in a cubicle when a toilet roll was ignited and a single recessed sprinkler head in the ceiling above the cubicle suppressed and contained the fire until the arrival of the fire service.

11th November: London

Fire crews responded to an Automatic Fire Alarm actuation. On arrival, they found a small extinguished fire in a cupboard containing a 12Kw kiln, which having been left switched on had set fire to some plastic trays left on top of it. A single sprinkler head, located inside the cupboard, had operated and extinguished the fire and no firefighting action was required.

2015

17th May: North Yorkshire

While occupied by about 100 Students, a fire occurred in a waste bin in a second floor toilet area in the Sixth Form College. One pendant sprinkler head activated in the affected area and extinguished the fire before the arrival of the FRS in two pumps and one aerial appliance.

7th November: South Wales

South Wales FRS attended a fire in a freezer unit located in the kitchen. 3 appliances were mobilised to the 2 storey school measuring approximately 60x30m and opened in July 2013. A single sprinkler head activated and was sufficient to extinguish the fire. There was only slight damage in the kitchen area.

report round-up

Working together on a common narrative

BAFSA, CFOA, NFSN and the Fire Sector Federation (FSF) are working together on a common narrative about the need and benefits of increasing the provision of fire sprinklers within high risk premises. CFOA Director of Prevention, Protection and Road Safety Lewis Ramsay, a long time advocate of the risk appropriate provision of sprinkler systems within the UK says that "the time is right for the broader fire sector to come together and present government with a set of compelling and cost effective proposals, aimed at better protecting the public and businesses from fire and reducing the unacceptably high social and economic cost of fire in the UK". The outcomes will be shared with everyone having a vested interest in protecting people and businesses from fire.

Fire Incident Response Times April 2014-March 2015

It is disappointing to note that once again fire service incident response times have increased, writes BAFSA's new CE Keith MacGillivray. On average the times have increased by 20 seconds or more making them the worst response times in twenty years!

While an increase of twenty seconds may not seem significant, to the person waiting for a fire appliance to arrive an extra twenty seconds will seem like a lifetime. The increase in response times also increases not only the risk to the occupier but also to the responding fire service personnel who are faced with a more developed fire.

Despite the fall in fire calls over the years, there seems to be an underlying trend of increasing serious injuries from fires. With continuing financial cuts in fire service budgets it would appear that the trend in both slower response times and increasing injuries from fires will continue.

It therefore more than ever, makes sense to fit automatic fire sprinklers to all properties, enabling the fire to be controlled in the early stages. This will reduce injuries to the public and firefighters together with reducing property losses.



Proud to care for our heritage

The owners of England's listed residential buildings say they feel privileged to be custodians of our heritage, according to this year's 'Heritage Counts' report published this month by Historic England on behalf of England's leading heritage organisations.

Over 1,000 listed building owners across the country were surveyed for the report. The results reveal that owners are proud to be conserving heritage for the future and enjoy being a part of our collective history. Perhaps following the destructive fire at Clandon House earlier in 2015, their conservation efforts will include sprinkler protection for the nation's historic homes and artefacts. Everyone at BAFSA knows that sprinklers protect our heritage from the ravages of fire.

On the morning of 8th February BAFSA will once again take up this issue at the APPFRSG seminar.

A busy year for the NFSN

At the Autumn meeting in Derby, a new Chair, CFO Terry McDermott of Derbyshire FRS was appointed to take over the reins from Iain Cox. Iain will of course be remaining to serve on the NFSN Executive as well and chairing the BSA.

With the ever tightening budget restraints upon the FRS, along with the number of colleagues leaving the service, it has been a full time occupation maintaining links within each Brigade and keeping membership numbers up.

This year there have been a number of differing questions put to the members by members including:

- Enquiries about matched funding projects for sprinklers around the country
- Sprinklers in cloakroom areas of schools
- Planned omission of sprinklers from a special school in Northampton
- Application of BS9251 for circulation areas in care premises
- Planned omission of sprinklers for new wholesale market in West Midlands
- Enquiry about pump specifications.

The NFSN acknowledges and appreciates the help of BAFSAs' technical experts in fielding some of these enquiries and this goes to illustrate the importance of all parties working together to further the case for sprinklers. Long may it continue.

Finally it just remains to thank everyone for their support for the NFSN and wish you all a joyful Christmas and prosperous 2016.

In readiness for 1st January

The introduction of the second part of the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Regulations 2013, which will require the installation of sprinkler systems into all new dwellings in Wales is now just a few weeks away, and BAFSA has been involved in a number of training events and seminars to assist builders to get ready for the implementation on January 1st.

The interim report of the pilot study on the Implementation of the regulations has been drafted and will be given to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration in the week commencing 30th December. BAFSA continues to take an active part in the steering group for this pilot.

Among the key findings of this report are the importance of specialist sprinkler input in the early design stages and good communication between key stakeholders is essential. Water supply issues were highlighted by most of the stakeholders as their main concern during the pre-installation stage.

"As the implementation date approaches a number of builders and plumbers are expressing an interest in the LQ2 qualification from Neath Port Talbot College. The uptake of this award I likely to increase as the legislation moves into the implementation phase"

Ritchie O'Connell, BAFSA Wales Advisor

New dates for L2 Sprinkler Installer courses

The Manchester College – February 2016

The course will be delivered in a block release style. This means that learner will need to attend 'blocks of learning time, Monday to Friday'. The block dates are as follows:

1st Block : 8th February (two weeks)

2nd Block : 6th June (two weeks)

3rd Block : 3rd October (two weeks)

4th Block : 12th December (1 week

Assessment block)

Course ends 16th December 2016

Neath Port Talbot College – February 2016

NPTC will commence a second course of learning for the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation qualification. The College intend operating a flexible learning policy designed to meet employer requirements (day or block release available)

Email qualifications@bafsa.org.uk to register your interest in sending a candidate a course.



New face for Sprinklers in Scotland

Daniel Doherty has joined the BAFSA team to promote sprinklers in Scotland. Danny served over 31 years in the Fire Service and was formerly head of Enforcement within Strathclyde Fire and Rescue as well as Chair of the CFOA(Scotland) Legislative forum.

"As the new guy on the block (I was going to say kid, but that would be stretching it)," said Daniel "I had an opportunity to meet many of the BAFSA members at the recent AGM and dinner in Manchester. I fully appreciate now that I have got some sizeable shoes to fill in keeping up with our new Chief Executive Keith MacGillivray's drive and passion for the promotion of sprinklers in Scotland. With recent significant incidents at Shotts prison and 15 rescues from a Glasgow tenement, the need for sprinklers in certain premises is as high now as ever it has been."

Danny Doherty, BAFSA Scotland Advisor

Skills & Development activities for 2016

Following the development and launch of the Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation courses at The Manchester College and Neath Port Talbot College, initial discussions are underway with potential training providers in Scotland with a view to delivering the qualification in January 2017.

Activities for 2016 include the development of a Career Transition Partnership where BAFSA will work with The Forces Employment Association and Walking with the Wounded to actively encourage

recruitment and training within the sector. Work experience opportunities, leading to employment will be sought from BAFSA member companies.

The development of a Skills Card has already been agreed and 2016 will see BAFSA and IQ agree the content and format of this card. The credit card sized, electronic card will be provided alongside the qualification certificate.

It is also intended to commence development on a Level 3 qualification at some point during the year with consideration being given to an accelerated learning programme.

Ruth Oliver,
BAFSA Skills & Development Advisor

A word from Europe

At last EN 12845: 2015 has been published. Among many improvements the standard now includes EFSN and CMSA sprinklers, guidance for excessive clearance and pump testing, and a new name for Annex F. Meanwhile we hope to have a first draft of revision 2 ready in 2016. A draft European residential sprinkler design and installation standard, prEN 16925, is now out for enquiry.

A number of countries require or incentivise the use of sprinklers in underground car parks. Belgium and France recently joined them. Meanwhile in Belgium the Flemish government is financing fire tests to assess whether sprinklers could permit open-plan designs of common areas in care homes.

For many years the EFSN has been involved in sprinkler campaigns in Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and UK. In November I was invited to the founding meeting of the Hungarian sprinkler association. Separately TUYAK, the Turkish Fire Protection Association, asked me to draft a plan for sprinkler campaigns in Turkey.

Fire Sprinkler International 2016 will be on 19-20 April in Munich. We have an excellent programme and a large exhibition. I hope to see you there!

Alan Brinson, Chief Executive, EFSN

members' news & views



BAFSA welcomes new members

Sharp Construction Scotland Ltd,
Fife
Installer (Level 1)

East Midlands Fire Ltd
Northants
Associate - Installer

Asset International Ltd
Newport
Trade Associate

Grontmij
Maidenhead
Association Organisation

Integral Pump Solutions
Warrington
Association Supplier

JT Fire Consultants Ltd
Kempsey
Association Organisation

UK Sprinklers Limited
Bury
Installer



Protecting people on Merseyside

New signs have been placed around the re-development site of one of the most prominent buildings in Scotland Road, a main route into Liverpool city centre. Marwood Towers is being developed by Liverpool Mutual Homes (LMH) and sprinklers will be fitted to help to protect 57 flats in the 15-storey high risk block and 24 new-build low rise apartments.

The signs have been placed on wooden site boards on Scotland Road, and Great Homer Street to promote the message that "Sprinklers Save Lives" and to provide facts and dispel some myths about sprinklers.

The Chair of the Fire Authority, Councillor Dave Hanratty, said: "The signs are there to promote the benefits of sprinklers to people and businesses. Sprinklers could potentially save millions of pounds for our economy."

Merseyside FRS is working with premises' owners, to retro-fit sprinkler systems to a number of large or complex buildings where people are living or working. Station Manager Andy Groom said: "A particular focus for this whole project is on those groups in society who are at greater risk should a fire occur. Any organisation who wants to take part in this project, where grant funding may be available, can contact us on sprinklerenquiries@merseyfire.gov.uk."

Fresh look

Vipond Fire has a new look website:
vipond-fire.co.uk

Pipeline expansion

Booles are expanding its sprinkler pipeline business with a new half a million square foot warehousing and distribution facility in Ipswich which will stock steel pipe of all sizes, holding up-to 5000 metric tonnes of pipes at any given time. The site will be serviced collectively by an experienced team of 15 people, who will handle and distribute on average 250 Tonnes of steel products per day.



Two New Offices

Triangle Fire Systems have moved to brand new offices in Hastings. The bespoke unit, formerly a gymnastics club, is more than double the size of the old office. As part of the fit-out Triangle renovated the 2.2m deep foam pit into a new canteen/staff lounge, with a mezzanine level above. Triangle are also delighted to announce the opening of their new Dartford Office.

Dry & Wet Risers

A new range of Dry and Wet Riser Equipment including cabinets, valves, grooved couplings and accessories has been launched by Rapidrop Global. The Dry & Wet Riser equipment is designed and manufactured to meet the requirements of BS5041, BS5306, BS990 and building approval regulations where systems should be available for the FRS.

Valedictory mutterings

A few personal thoughts from Stewart Kidd on 15 years moderately hard labour (with no remission but lots of very happy memories).

It is (or at least it used to be) normal in the diplomatic service for a departing British ambassador to write a Valedictory Letter to the Permanent Secretary in London. These letters allowed free rein for Their Excellencies to let off steam and were often highly indiscreet and uncomplimentary about host nations.

As I approach the end of more than 15 years service with BAFSA I hope I might be permitted to make some of my own valedictory observations – all, as the late Kenny Everett would have observed, are in the best possible taste. And if not so, then at least I hope any reader will variously be amused or, if not sprinkler-phillic, annoyed. But don't take the latter out on BAFSA or its members or staff – these are my views.

So what is my take, and why does it matter?

I still don't see why so many otherwise, apparently educated, sensible, people don't 'get' sprinklers. I include the 'yes, but' crowd and the followers of Nick Ross ('too expensive and too complicated'). I also include the consultants who are clever enough to 'design out the need for sprinklers'. (If I was the Lord High Executioner they'd be top of my list - and none of them'd be missed!) With respect to this last bunch, I can't wait for an expert witness instruction from an insurer who is proposing to recover his costs on a building which would have been sprinklered ... but for the intervention of a consultant.)

It's perhaps the 'too expensive' which really rankles. Honestly, after all these years this still makes me fume. I've never heard anyone say that central heating or new kitchens are too expensive, so what's going on here? Why have we (and I guess if I'm totally honest I really mean me) failed to get this message over?

All you need is NOT love, I'd suggest, but sprinklers. Why don't we stop being

conciliatory to the other parts of the fire industry and just come out with what we believe is the truth? Let's drop the 'holistic approach to fire safety' and every time it's uttered, contest the assertion that 'sprinklers are not a panacea'. Because they are!

Self-evidently, if you sprinkler protect a building you don't need anything else other than a few exit signs and maybe some lighting units. That is perhaps the message we should be delivering to DCLG as they consider the need for revisions to Approved Document B – I'm sure that Minister for Building would be delighted to be told that provided ALL new buildings were sprinkler protected there would be no need for an AD-B at all.

Would it work? Answer – don't know, as it has never been tried. So that's a really good reason for not questioning the status quo? And please explain why such regulations as we have for new buildings (even when fully complied with) allow new buildings to be completely destroyed within 30 minutes of a fire starting. And don't justify the present system by saying it works because people no longer die in fires. A building code which writes off a structure in 30 minutes regardless of type is a failed code – especially if this was a green building.

What else irks me?

Well there are a few things:

BAFSA members who don't participate, don't attend meetings, don't respond to communications and then ask 'what do I get for my subscription?' This group is like the non-members who make use of everything BAFSA produces but decline to join 'because it's too expensive'.

I'd really like to see the volunteer leadership play a greater part in running BAFSA – especially all council members getting stuck in to particular assignments.

I think there's a danger that if the officers of the association are not supported more actively there's a possibility that employees might decide that the day job comes first. I think it's only since Peter Armstrong stepped down that I realised just how much time he was devoting to the association. I'm convinced that it was this dedication over 14 years that allowed him to step down as chairman and bequeath a well-funded, successful and influential trade association.

I believe that BAFSA's independence is critical; I believe that its members' enthusiasm for the products is self-evident; I believe that Team BAFSA is probably the most effective staff operation working in the fire industry.

I also believe that BAFSA's approach to cooperation and coordination is one of the 'force multipliers' which has allowed it to exercise more influence than its size and income would suggest.

In April 2000 no one would have rationally postulated that by January 2016 we would have legislation in the UK which required significant building purpose groups to install automatic fire suppression systems. What will my successor be saying in 2031?

Thank you for allowing me to share the experience, for allowing me wide latitude, for supporting me and for holding my hand when it occasionally went wrong. Thank you for the privilege of running BAFSA and for the joys of working with you all.

Stewart

2016 highlights



February

9th

APFFRSG Parliamentary seminar

BAFSA is choosing to sponsor this to clearly demonstrate that BAFSA is a leading player in the fire community with the ability to take two justified messages to the heart of government - sprinklers are essential for heritage buildings; sprinklers are critical for schools.

March

8th

IWMA Watermist Conference

BAFSA have teamed up with the FIA and the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) to organise the "UK Water Mist Seminar 2016" which will take place at BRE in Watford near London on 8th March 2016.

There will be no admission fee and the seminar is CPD-accredited! There will also be an exhibition. For more information and booking fia.uk.com/event/uk-water-mist-seminar-2016.html

17th

Vulnerable People in Domestic & Residential Care Homes & Social Housing Seminar

This is a BAFSA event hosted by Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service at the Moat House, Acton Trussell ST17 0RJ. This seminar marks the onset of one of several new campaigns for BAFSA and there will be a comprehensive programme including a presentation from a Care Home Provider.

This seminar will form the basis for others with a similar focus over the next 2 years.

18th

BAFSA seminar : Fire Safety in Modern Logistics Facilities

Organised by BAFSA and hosted Northants FRS. Venue for this one day event is to be confirmed. This seminar will be the seventh in a series of the BAFSA Warehouse Roadshows. We still intend holding one in Humberside, London and Hampshire.



April



13th

BAFSA Heritage seminar

To be held at Highley Station, the southern terminus of the Severn Valley Railway. Set in the fascinating surroundings of the Engine House this one day seminar will focus on protecting the UK's historic structures and treasures from fire. Delegates can choose to travel to the event on the steam railway.

19th – 20th

Fire Sprinkler International 2016

Organised by the EFSN and co-hosted by the Bvfa, this will be the largest sprinkler event outside of the USA in 2016. firesprinklerinternational.com



June

22nd

BAFSA Challenge & Golf Day

The second BAFSA Challenge and Golf Day will be held at Mottram Hall Hotel, SK10 4QT. A fun and challenging day for all. We will be looking for 8 team sponsors this year. Email marketing@bafsa.org.uk find out more.

November

17th

Fire Sprinkler 2016

BAFSA's biennial conference is the only event dedicated to the sprinkler industry and this year will be held at the St David's Bay hotel in Cardiff. This ever popular event attracts more than 200 delegates – all fire safety professionals who need to know more about sprinklers – and there will be an exhibition alongside it for BAFSA members to promote their products and services. An unmissable event in the sprinkler industry calendar.

bafsa dates for your diary

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association
bafsa

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Keith MacGillivray, CE, E : ce@bafsa.org.uk

2015	Event	Dates and Venues
17 December	BAFSA Office reopens in Aberfeldy	
2016	Event	Dates and Venues
12 January	Executive + staff	St David's Bay Hotel, Cardiff
13 January	Council	St David's Bay Hotel, Cardiff
19 January	IFE SIG Heritage	London (SK)
20 January	Technical	Armstrong Priestley, Leeds
27 January	CPD Seminar	Shropshire Council (IG)
28 January	Communications and Market Dev.	Rapidrop, Peterborough
9 February	All Party Fire Group Seminar	House of Lords
8 March	IWMA Watermist Conference	BRE, Garston
8/9 March	LGA Fire Conference	Bristol (BSA/KMcG)
17 March	Vulnerable Persons & Residential seminar	Moat House Hotel, Acton Trussell Northants
18 March	Warehouse and Modern Logistics Facilities seminar	
13 April	BAFSA Heritage Fire Seminar	Severn Valley Railway
27 April	Executive	tba (or 3/4/5 May)
11 May	Council	Tyco Park, Manchester
18 May	Technical	Hall Fire, Manchester
22 June	BAFSA Challenge and Golf Day	Mottram Hall Hotel
6 July	Executive + staff	tba
7 September	Council	Reliable, East Grinstead
21 September	Technical	Rapidrop, Peterborough
3 November	Executive	tba
16 November	Council + staff	St David's Hotel, Cardiff
16 November	AGM & Dinner	St David's Hotel, Cardiff
17 November	Fire Sprinkler 2016	St David's Hotel, Cardiff

To receive Sprinkler Focus by email please contact BAFSA at info@bafsa.org.uk and ask to be added to the subscriber list.

BAFSA is happy to receive suggestions for topics to be covered in future issues and welcomes contributions from all BAFSA members. Please make contact via marketing@bafsa.org.uk

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association
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