

Technical news from bafsa

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BAFSA has published a 16 page report into this major retrofit project of 540 individual "ranch style" properties sited in four locations around Sheffield. This detailed and comprehensive report will be launched on 24th May at the South Yorkshire FRS Training Centre. Following on from the launch BAFSA

will hold a seminar, the second in a series with the theme "Protecting the elderly and vulnerable from fires in residential premises and social housing".

Bookings now being taken – email marketing@bafsa.org.uk to secure your places.

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association
bafsa
fire sprinkler 2016
conference & exhibition

Branding for the BAFSA biennial Fire Sprinkler Conference & Exhibition to be held 16th November in Cardiff has been launched with a vibrant new logo leading the way. Further information about Fire Sprinkler 2016 can be found at www.firesprinklerevents.com

from the Chairman

BAFSA has had a busy start to the year with attendance at a number of key events. The launch of the Welsh measures at the Welsh assembly, an all party event at the House of Lords and a sell-out seminar on Warehousing and Modern Logistics Facilities co-hosted by Northamptonshire FRS and a very well received seminar considering "Protecting the elderly and Vulnerable from fires in Residential Premises and Sheltered Housing" held in 5 star surroundings courtesy of Staffordshire FRS.

Our first two "Member Briefings" at Silverstone and Stafford have been a great success with high attendance. We intend to continue with these in other parts of the country.

Moving forward, qualifications and skills remain a major focus and we need your continued support in this area. In June, we will again hold the BAFSA Golf & Challenge Day and in May, launch the report in to the Sheffield Retrofit project.

And last but not least our conference, Fire Sprinkler 2016, in November which will be held in Cardiff.

All in all, another busy year ahead.

My thanks as always to our members who contribute, and our CE and support staff.

John Mccann
Chairman, BAFSA

NFPA 13 adds a new requirement

NFPA 13 is the industry benchmark for design and installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems and addresses sprinkler system design approaches, system installation, and component options to prevent fire deaths and property loss as well as acceptance testing; hanging and bracing systems; underground piping; and seismic protection in line with SEI/ASCE 7 and also includes provisions for special storage arrangements.

In a major change that impacts designers and installers, the 2016 edition of NFPA 13 added a new requirement that a single air vent be installed on each wet pipe sprinkler system to help reduce corrosion activity due to trapped air.

7.1.5 Air Venting

A single air vent with a connection conforming to 8.16.6 shall be provided on each wet pipe system utilising metallic pipe.

8.16.6 Air Venting

The vent required by 7.1.5 shall be located near a high point in the system to allow air to be removed from that portion of the system by one of the following methods:

1. Manual valve, minimum 1/2" size
2. Automatic air vent
3. Other approved means



**Keith Plater,
Group Managing
Director of
Rapidrop Global,
has been elected
Vice Chairman of
BAFSA**

BS 9999 : Draft standard available

The Draft for Public Comment (DPC) for BS 9999 is now live at <http://drafts.bsigroup.com> and will close on 22nd May.

BS9999 gives recommendations and guidance on the design, management and use of buildings to achieve reasonable standards of fire safety for all people in and around buildings.

It is not applicable to the following types of building, which are covered in BS 9991:

- a) dwellings (single family dwelling houses, self contained flats or maisonettes);
- b) 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;

c) specialised housing.

It is also not applicable to houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) and might have only limited applicability to certain specialist buildings and areas of buildings (e.g. areas of lawful detention).

BS9999 is applicable to the design of new buildings, and to material alterations, extensions and material change of use of an existing building. The same recommendations generally apply to both

BAFSA sprinkler demo trailer

An invaluable tool in the sprinkler industry's toolbox is a sprinkler demonstration unit and BAFSA is currently working with the Nationwide Fire team to prepare a new trailer for the sole purpose of promoting automatic fire sprinklers at events and locations around the UK.

A sprinkler demonstration unit offers a chance to show how sprinklers work on a real fire and will help those who have never seen a sprinkler operate to understand that burnt toast will not set off a sprinkler, and that only the sprinklers directly above the fire will open.

The BAFSA trailer offers a unique opportunity for BAFSA members to promote their products and services and expertise through sponsorship. The unit has large side display panels which will act as a bill board. Space is available as follows:

Company name & website : £250

Company name & logo : £500

Company name, logo & website : £750

The trailer will also bear the BAFSA logo and livery along with the following slogans:

Sprinklers save Lives

Sprinklers save Property

Sprinklers save Firefighters' Lives.

This is an exciting opportunity but space is limited. Please call 01795 530111 or email marketing@bafsa.org.uk to advise how you would like to be involved in the sponsorship of the sprinkler demonstration unit.



for comment

existing and new buildings, but existing buildings, especially historic buildings, often pose problems which are unlikely to arise in new buildings.

Historic buildings present particular challenges, as many are listed and permitted material alterations are therefore limited without the agreement of the appropriate authorities. For such buildings, it is advisable to seek the advice of consultative bodies, such as Historic England, Historic Wales, Historic Scotland and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, in the early stages of design.

The recommendations can be applied to buildings of any height. However, the

increased design demands on structural integrity, services, fire safety systems, means of firefighting and evacuation generated by buildings in excess of 50 m high might mean that specific evaluation of all fire safety provisions is needed using a qualitative design review in accordance with BS 7974. This is to determine whether the recommendations in BS 9999 are appropriate, or whether a full fire engineered solution is required.

The primary objective of BS 9999 is to ensure that an adequate standard of life safety can be achieved in the event of fire in the building. A secondary objective is to

provide a level of protection for property and businesses against the impact of fire, e.g. in close proximity to residential buildings or as part of the same building or building complex.

If you would like to comment on the DPC, the Draft Review System <http://drafts.bsigroup.com> rather than the Word comment template; but the template is fine if you have trouble using the DRS. Comments in the form of emails, discussion documents, etc. will not be accepted. Unless you are an existing user you will have to register on the site to gain access to the draft for comment. Please ensure that any comments are submitted by 22nd May deadline.

Chief Executive's update

It is now almost three months since I took over the role of Chief Executive from my predecessor Stewart Kidd; I am pleased to say that BAFSA is in very good shape thanks to Stewart's leadership and administration over the last fifteen years.

As with all great organisations we must move forward; where do I take BAFSA to in the next five years? I have been able to get out and meet many of our members at the recent Members' Briefings in Northamptonshire and Staffordshire together with some of our Welsh members in Cardiff in January. Further briefings for members will take place in Sheffield, Newcastle, Humberside and Scotland later this year.

It has been good to receive the feedback from members both old and new, it is clear from all those I have spoken with, that they want to take the organisation forward and

get more from their membership. In order to formalise the feedback and to receive more information from members, I will be undertaking an electronic survey of all members in June.

The survey is your opportunity to tell me, where you would like BAFSA to be in five years time, what we are doing right, what can be improved and what further benefits BAFSA can give to Members? I would like to encourage all members to take part in this survey; this is your opportunity to have your say in BAFSA's future direction.

The BAFSA team is working extremely hard on your behalf, delivering presentations, providing CPD to outside organisations, answering technical, training development together with marketing enquiries.

All members of the team including myself are retained on a part-time, self-employed

basis; this provides excellent value for money together with flexibility for BAFSA to address the needs of our members.

This year will be an extremely busy one for the team; we have our biennial conference, Fire Sprinkler 2016, in November together with the production and launch of our biannual yearbook. We will be launching a new sprinkler demonstration unit in May together with the formal launch of the Sheffield Low Rise Report. Together with this, our team will be answering questions on a daily basis from potential customers and clients on your behalf.

I am very much looking forward to meeting more of you at our forthcoming seminars; please take the time to complete our membership survey when you receive it in June.

Keith MacGillivray

A wealth of essential information

BAFSA Information Files (BIFs) are used as promotional aids at seminars and are a useful source of information to the wider fire community. It is therefore important that they are kept up to date and reviewed on a regular basis.

In 2015 Council identified a need to review and revise a large number of BIFs and agreed a prioritised programme to be managed by Steve Seaber. The following is a list of documents revised in the last 12 months:

BIF 26 Sprinklers in the Insurance Industry	March 2015
BIF 5 Warehouses	May 2015
BIF 21 Wet and Dry Risers	September 2015
BIF 27 Managing Sprinkler Protected Premises	October 2015
BIF 8a Flexible Connectors	January 2016
BIF 14 Residential Care	March 2016
BIF 19 Sprinkler Reliability	March 2016

A further ten documents are currently being redrafted by BAFSA members and staff as listed as follows:

BIF 2 Dwellings	Ian Gough
BIF 8d CPVC	Alexander Crisp/ Ritchie O' Connell
BIF 9 Watermist	Bob Whiteley
BIF 13 Water supplies	Steve Mills/ Steve Seaber (1st Draft received)
BIF 15 Types of sprinkler system	Joe McCafferty (1st draft received)
BIF 16a R & D Maintenance	Nigel Chantler
BIF 16B BSEN12845 Maintenance	Joe McCafferty
BIF 17 Hospitals and Healthcare	Ritchie O' Connell
BIF 20 Third Party Certification	Ian Woodhouse/ Steve Seaber
BIF 24 Training and Qualifications	Ruth Oliver

In addition to the BIFs, it is anticipated that revisions will be necessary to TG 2 Sprinklers and Fire Engineering (following revision of BS 9999) and TG 3 Watermist (following publication of British Standards).

One area holding up the publication of revisions is the lack of print quality photographs for use in the document.



It would be most helpful if BAFSA members, particularly installers could provide photographs for the BIFs currently under revision in the list above. Please send them to sfs.partnership@btinternet.com

bafsa fire sprinkler 2016

conference & exhibition

Wednesday 16th November

... the most important date in the UK fire sprinkler calendar

16th November is the most important date in the UK sprinkler calendar in 2016 when the BAFSA Fire Sprinkler Conference will be held at the fully sprinklered, sleek and modern 5 star St David's Hotel & Spa Cardiff.

This one day conference will have a packed programme of Plenary Sessions and Workshops. Education, heritage, sleeping risks and protecting the vulnerable are subjects which will feature in the programme, all to be presented by experts in their chosen field.

BAFSA's biennial conference seeks to bring indepth knowledge and experience, technical updates, standards and case studies regarding waterbased automatic fire suppression to an audience of BAFSA members, local authorities, facilities managers, architects and fire safety engineers and the wider fire community.

BAFSA Member Day delegate rate: £190

Non-Member Day delegate rate: £230

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT of £35 on all bookings received by 1st October

Book online now at
<http://goo.gl/SpXEWI>

Table top stands inclusive of one delegate pass £1250

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT £200 for all exhibition space booked by 1st August

This is the only opportunity in the UK to present your unique products and services to an audience (estimated 250 +) of fellow BAFSA members, fire safety professionals in the wider fire community all of whom will be completely focussed on the subject of water-based automatic fire suppression.

Email marketing@bafsa.org.uk outlining your requirements and we will call you to discuss how best we can promote you at this prestigious event.

There also several interesting and beneficial sponsorship opportunities including Stage Set; Conference bags; Lanyards; Refreshment Breaks; the Gala Dinner entertainment; Gala Dinner Menus; Gala Dinner table wines. Do call Wendy on 01795 530111.

ACCOMMODATION

The St. David's Hotel & Spa
Havannah Street, Cardiff, CF10 5SD
Wales, UK
+44 (0) 2920 454 045

FS 2016 EXHIBITION

Alongside the conference will be an exhibition of the all the best that the sprinkler industry can offer.

Exhibition space can be booked from 1200 on 15th November prior to the BAFSA AGM and throughout the conference on 16th November.

Classic B&B £95 per night

Deluxe : B&B £125 per night



FIRE SPRINKLER 2016 GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner will be held on 15th November with a champagne reception to welcome you and your partners, colleagues and guests to an evening of good food and entertainment.

This is a sparkling opportunity for BAFSA members and the fire protection industry to socialise and celebrate.

Tickets £70

Tables of 10 £630

Book your Gala Dinner tickets online here <http://goo.gl/MBYWw0>

Combined day delegate/Gala Dinner Tickets can also be booked at the Early Bird discounted rate of :

BAFSA members £230

Non-members £265

Exhibition space can be booked by emailing marketing@bafsa.org.uk



sprinkler saves

January



9th - House : Sheffield

A recently installed fire sprinkler system, at a Derby street address in Gleadless, Sheffield, activated following a mobility scooter fire, allowing the elderly resident to escape without serious injury.

The mobility scooter, parked outside the front of the top floor property, burst into flames shortly before 0600hrs due to an electrical fault. The resulting fire then spread to the front of the building causing the front windows to break and allow the fire to spread inside the building.

The fire sprinkler system activated, extinguishing the fire and limiting damage to the front of the dwelling, when fire crews arrived the fire was all ready under control. The interior of the property was relatively undamaged by this very severe fire.

The fire sprinklers have been retrofitted by BAFSA member, Armstrong Preistley in the 540 ranch style properties as part of a ground breaking initiative by Sheffield Council to improve fire safety in the properties, supported by South Yorkshire FRS. The installation of these type of systems is now mandatory in Wales and South Yorkshire FRS is actively promoting the use of this type of protection in all types of buildings to build resilience and safety into our community.

March



5th - Apartment Block : London

At 1742hrs on March 5th

London FB received a call to a report of fire in a 9 storey block of serviced apartments in the Borough of Westminster. 4 pumping appliances were mobilised.

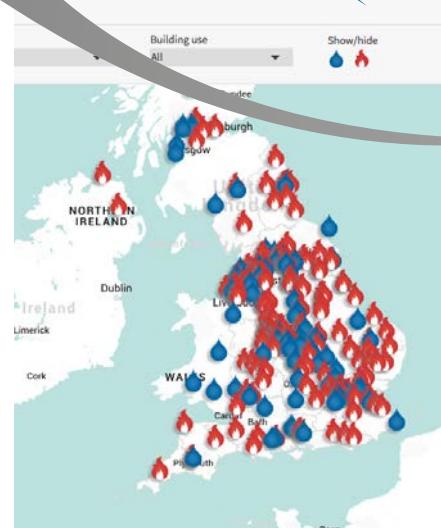
On arrival it was noted that the high pressure water mist suppression system

Interactive Sprinkler Saves map

The Business Sprinkler Alliance (BSA) launched an interactive map which illustrates known sprinkler saves since 2012 together with known losses in unsprinklered warehouses and commercial buildings.

The map can be accessed via the following link:

www.sprinklersaves.uk



(designed to NFPA Standards) within the reception area was activating and it was subsequently seen from CCTV footage that flames had emanated from ducting within that area.

The seat of the fire was located as an air conditioning unit contained within an adjacent store room and that the fire had spread through about 5m of ducting into the reception area. The heat and flame produced was enough to actuate all 3 'sprinkler' heads at ceiling level above the reception desk. These heads extinguished the fire at the outlet and prevented the fire spreading. The fire within the ducting had burnt out.

The concierge was at the reception desk when flames issued from the ducting outlet at ceiling level. He instigated the evacuation of the 180 persons in the building and called the London FB. No injuries were reported.

Fire crews exposed the ducting fully to check for fire spread but no further extinguishing media was necessary.



8th - School : London

At just before 1300hrs on March 8th, London FB were called to a

report of fire in a 2nd floor toilet block at a secondary school in Hackney. One pumping appliance was mobilised. The school is equipped with a full sprinkler system and one head on the wet pipe system had operated within the toilet area to extinguish the fire. The fire was reported as Out on Arrival (OOA) and there were no reported injuries.



27th - Apartment block : Chelmsford

A chip pan caught fire in a kitchen at a 14 storey tower block in Chelmsford, Essex at around 2240hrs on March 27th.

The block of 81 flats is one of a number within Essex that have been fitted with residential sprinklers by BAFSA member, Triangle Fire Protection. Once the pan ignited, one sidewall sprinkler head activated within the kitchen and completely extinguished the fire. The sprinkler system is fed by pump from a storage tank within the building.

Fire damage is reported to have been confined to the room itself ($5m^2$) and no injuries are reported to have occurred.

BAFSA Golf & Challenge Day

... plenty of time to limber up for 22nd June

Following the resounding success of the inaugural day in 2015 its time to do it all again. The 2016 BAFSA Golf and second BAFSA Challenge Day will be held on 22nd June at Mottram Hall

With 2 additional events plus a few of last year's favourites, BAFSA Challenge Day 2016 will be bigger and more competitive than ever. New challenges will include blindfold tent pitching and full size table football.

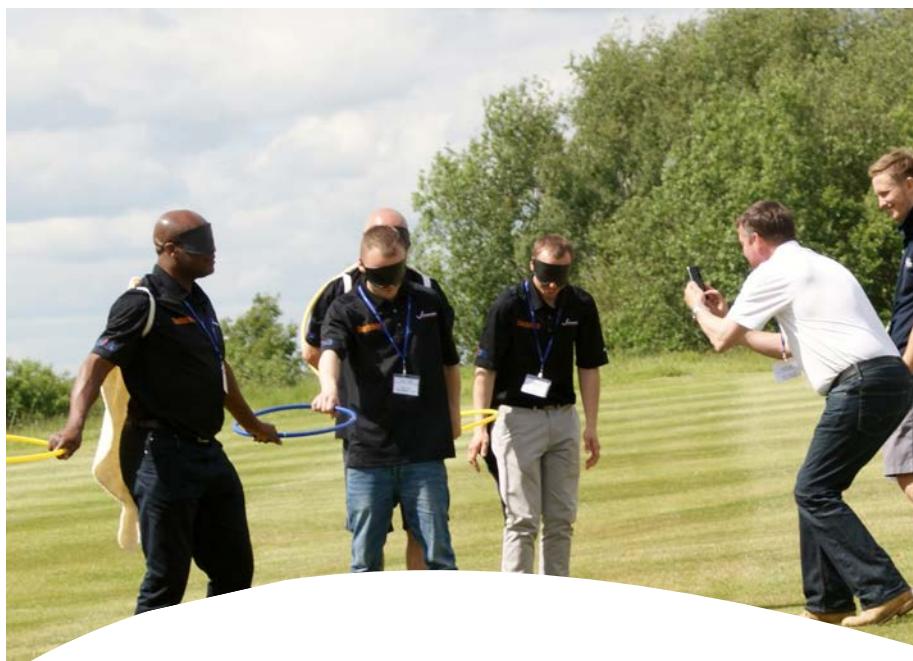
We are pleased to confirm sponsorship from defending champions Applications Engineering and last year's supporters Domestic Sprinklers, Hall & Kay, Hall Fire and Vipond have all come back for more with SPP Pumps and Rapidrop completing the line up of sponsors for 2016.

The day will start with the BAFSA Golf Challenge. Teeing off from 0800 a series of 4 balls will be played and individual golfers, guests and teams of 4, regardless of proficiency, are invited to compete. 18 holes of golf including Bacon Butties and a goodie bag plus a light lunch, the BAFSA Challenge activities and barbecue is available to allcomers for £75. Plus, of course, trophies and a wealth of prizes for the lucky ones.

All BAFSA members are invited to compete in the 2016 BAFSA Challenge Day. There is no entry fee so book your place and those of your colleagues now by emailing marketing@bafsa.org.uk.

Plan to join the day from 1100 and as you arrive you will be introduced to your team mates with time to discuss tactics and identify strengths and weaknesses.

Of course, if entertainment rather than exercise is what you seek, come and cheer the teams on and enjoy a day of getting to know the hidden talents and sporting prowess of your fellow BAFSA members.



***Experienced blindfolded tent pitchers
will be much sought after...***

report round-up

Skills & Qualifications: a new Preferred Training Provider

With Qualifications, training and competency of the workforce continuing to be at the forefront of BAFSA activities and so ensuring that our continued promotion of the benefits of fire sprinklers is not wasted, a further partnership with a training provider has been established.

BAFSA are pleased to announce Llandrillo College, based in Rhos on Sea, North Wales has been appointed a BAFSA Preferred Training Provider offering:

- Agored 'Installation and Maintenance of Fire Sprinkler Systems in Domestic Dwellings' Award
- Agored 'Inspecting the installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems in Domestic Dwellings' Award
- IQ Level 2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation (QCF)



Grŵp Llandrillo Menai was established in 2012 as a result of mergers between Coleg Llandrillo, Coleg Menai and Coleg Meirion-Dwyf and is Wales's largest Further Education Institution and one of the largest groups of colleges in the UK.

The College is currently taking bookings for the 'Installation and Maintenance of Fire Sprinkler Systems in Domestic Dwellings' Award and has 26 confirmed student places already taken for courses taking place in February and March. The structure of the Agored Award will be based on the current BS9251:2014 standards and assessment will combine knowledge based test and practical assessment. If you are interested please contact s.dunne@gllm.ac.uk



It is envisaged that the L2 Certificate in Fire Sprinkler Installation will commence in October 2016. Further details will be released in due course. For further information email qualifications@bafsa.org.uk in the first instance.

Dafydd Evans, Principal & Chief Executive, Llandrillo College says: "There is a growing consensus that sprinkler systems offer a highly cost-effective way of reducing the UK's appalling fire death toll which prompted the Welsh Government to bring in much needed legislation to prevent these needless tragedies. Following the recent introduction of new Building Regulations affecting domestic properties in Wales and through the delivery of a new innovative sprinkler training course, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai are delighted to be appointed as a BAFSA Preferred Training Provider. We look forward to a long and successful working relationship with Bafsa advancing and promoting this important sector dedicated to ensuring that sprinkler systems are designed and installed to the highest professional standards."

The College is keen to work alongside BAFSA ensuring that the workforce is competent, fit for purpose and will be promoting BAFSA membership. A formal launch to the partnership is to be held at the College on Thursday 19th May 2016. Further details to be released.

Mike Green, Chair of BAFSA Skills & Development Committee says: "With a major change to UK fire safety law now active in Wales where automatic fire sprinkler systems are compulsory in all new and converted residential properties these new training opportunities in North Wales can only offer further support to those wishing to evidence their competency in installation, maintenance and inspection of such systems. BAFSA looks forward to working with Llandrillo College and extends a warm welcome to them as a new member of our Training Provider Consortium".

Scotland: Fully committed to sustainability

Scottish Government remains fully committed to the sustainability of its schools, a thorny issue elsewhere in the UK and was highlighted recently at BAFSA's presentation in the House of Lords. Five new build schools in Scotland will all have sprinkler systems installed.

Recently Scottish Building Standards Agency announced that a revision of its Technical Standards will take place over the next few years. Preliminary discussions have taken place with SBSA staff around the wider sprinkler agenda, and although not drawn to any commitments they are happy to consider the greater introduction of sprinklers where it can be financially justifiable in light of the recent cost benefit analysis by Optimal Economics Ltd. There remains an appetite at Ministerial level for the fire protection benefits that sprinklers can provide although that impetus is halted at the moment due to the forthcoming elections at Holyrood.

Collaboration is still ongoing with Scottish FRS and discussions have taken place around the hosting of a sprinkler event sometime in the autumn. Dates will be announced when confirmed.

Danny Doherty
BAFSA Technical Advisor, Scotland

Wales: A celebration

The Domestic Fire Safety(Wales) regulations were implemented on the 1st January, following many years of hard work by Assembly Member Anne Jones and her team. The implementation of the Regulations was marked by a celebration at the Senedd building, home to the Welsh Government in Cardiff Bay, this meeting was attended by a number of BAFSA members together with the council members who had been attending a council meeting in Cardiff, which had been relocated to coincide with the event at the Senedd. Speakers on the evening included Anne Jones AM, The First Minister for Wales Carwyn Jones and Ronnie King OBE In January, the Welsh Assembly held a celebratory event to mark the completion of the Domestic Fire Safety (Welsh) Measure, which is now a statutory regulation to install automatic fire sprinkler protection in all new domestic dwellings in Wales. The evening was supported by BAFSA and several members attended bearing banners and literature for the 50+ guests.

South Wales FRS hosted a sprinkler information seminar to mark the new legislation, the event was well attended with attendees from building control bodies, registered social landlords and architects.

Congratulations to Llandrillo College on becoming BAFSA Preferred Training Provider for the Level 2 and upskilling courses. The first upskilling course is scheduled to have 36 enrolled students and we wish them every success.

Ritchie O'Connell
BAFSA Technical Advisor, Wales



Old and new faces at NFSN AGM

About 40 delegates from across the UK attended the National Fire Sprinkler Network held its AGM and Spring Members Meeting at Essex FRS HQ in Kelvedon in March.

Delegates were welcomed by ACO Paul Hill of Essex FRS who stressed the need for an holistic view to protecting the vulnerable, making the useful point that many such persons have a wide range of social needs which we need to recognise.

The AGM encompassed the election of the NFSN officials and executive members with the attending delegates unanimously endorsed the current line up. There followed a lively and interesting discussion chaired by Terry McDermott, CFO of Derbyshire FRS and newly appointed NFSN Chairperson.

One familiar face will be missing at future events as Steve Seaber decide to step down from the executive to concentrate on more relaxing past times. He will be sorely missed and all at the NFSN wish him well.

Replacing Steve on the executive is Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development at Buckinghamshire FRS who is well known and highly respected among the sprinkler fraternity and his added role into CFOA will serve to strengthen the links of the NFSN.

The members meeting followed the AGM which contained the usual reports on Parliamentary Matters by Ronnie King, particularly focussing on schools and recent meetings with ministers.

There was a resume of progress of the proposed European R&D standard from Alan Brinson and Celestine Cheong reported the FSF work-stream is looking to influence the review of Building Regulations. Reports from

around the UK included the proposal to fit sprinklers into Shirley Towers and two other blocks in Southampton, two new schools in Staffordshire and a move to sprinkler 60 extra care flats in Cleveland and encouraging news from Derbyshire on how local district have embraced sprinklers in local housing schemes.

There were presentations by Keith Rhodes about the new sprinkler demonstration unit and a look at how Dorset FRS are helping to further develop a Personal Protection System which can be used to protect vulnerable persons in their homes along with a flameless cigarette lighter utilising up to date technology and there was also a good discussion on how to access IRS data concerning sprinkler activations.

The next NFSN meeting will be on July 6th. If you would like to attend please contact the NFSN at nfsn@btconnect.com.

Steve Mills
BAFSA FRS co-ordinator & NFSN Secretary

report round-up

A busy start to the year

In late January, Shropshire Building Control organised a very successful evening seminar in Shrewsbury for both building inspectors and invited clients; over thirty people attended. Interestingly, the changes in Wales brought about by the Domestic Fire Safety (Wales) Measure 2011 and the lessons to be learnt from the Welsh Government 'Sprinkler Pilot Study' were the topics covered.

Although some attendees were from or work in Wales, encouragingly, many were from bordering English counties. Indeed, the audience clearly wanted to understand the implications of not only building in Wales but, moreover, the 'opportunities' that may be provided by installing sprinklers – particularly in properties such as care homes who wish to attract Welsh residents.

Pleasingly, feedback from this and other seminars suggests that 'social housing' providers and the care sector generally are beginning to see the potential benefits of including sprinklers in new projects. Furthermore, retro-fitting of systems is gaining favour, especially in buildings of higher risk and situations where conventional fire protection is seen as being too restrictive for occupants.

In February, BAFSA provided what is now becoming a regular, half-day, continual professional development (CPD) session on 'Sprinklers for Life Safety' to members of Local Authority Building Control (LABC). This event took place at their London training centre in Vauxhall and sixteen building inspectors attended from London and the Home Counties.

Once again, the delegates were keen to learn from case studies of sprinklers being used to compensate for relaxations of passive protection, or other difficulties in complying with the Approved Documents; loft conversions and open plan flats being of particular interest.

Student satisfaction from these seminars is clearly high as LABC are currently in the process of arranging further events in Avon, the North East and London.

Ian Gough
BAFSA Technical Advisor

A European perspective

At any given time several countries are reviewing their fire safety building codes. Each time sprinklers make a step forwards. Ireland began its review several years ago and I am hopeful the draft new Irish Technical Guidance Document B, expected this spring, will introduce requirements for sprinklers in care homes, flats above a certain number of storeys and large warehouses. Finland began its review last year. It is likely to clarify when sprinklers may be used to increase maximum compartment sizes and to allow wooden healthcare buildings up to eight storeys if they are fitted with sprinklers (this flexibility already applies to offices and residential buildings). The Slovak review also began last year. It has not yet begun to consider active fire protection systems but there is interest in care homes. Elsewhere in Europe, we are waiting for Ministerial approval in France of a new underground car park regulation, which now requires sprinklers. Later this year we expect France to begin a review of its fire safety regulation for housing, which dates from 1986! In Belgium, fire tests last autumn will inform a review of the Flemish regulations for care homes. Back in the UK, the draft update to BS 9999 will be published for public comment in April. This has largely been a tidying-up exercise; we did not have data to support major changes in the guidance.

Although painfully slow, we are making progress with European standards. BAFSA members will know that revision 1 of BS EN

12845 has been published. We have been working for several years on revision 2, which is a more fundamental review of the standard and is therefore taking considerable committee time, with it seems every line being debated. We will not have a draft ready this year. More positively, prEN 12259-9, the European deluge valve standard, has been sent to BSI and the other national standards bodies for a vote. With this standard it will be possible to CE-mark deluge valves. Given that increasing numbers of construction products are now CE-marked, and that other fire trades are well ahead of the sprinkler industry, pressure for sprinkler components to be CE-marked is likely to increase.

We are also making progress with residential standards: prEN 16925, the European residential sprinkler system standard, has been circulated for comments. We will soon begin to review them, working closely with those who drafted prEN 12259-14, the European residential sprinkler component standard. Next up is prEN 12259-12, the European sprinkler pump standard, which should also soon be circulated for comments.

While the UK may not need all these standards, often having British Standards or industry-accepted codes of practice, other countries do need them as references to support our sprinkler campaigns. Standards also help to open up markets, allowing manufacturers to sell the same or similar products in every country. After all, a fire does not know if it is in Lyon, Birmingham or Stuttgart.

Alan Brinson
EFSN

A great variation in online enquiries

During the past year there has been a great variation in the types of queries received and resolved by the BAFSA online enquiry service.

The type of queries received have been about:

- location of obstructions relative to sprinklers
- reusing an old sprinkler tank as an arts display room
- certification of sprinkler systems
- cleaning and maintenance of sprinkler tanks
- power supplies for sprinkler pumps
- categorisation of in-rack storage
- IP rating of electrical equipment in room with sprinklers
- sprinklers in ceiling voids
- combined water supplies for sprinkler and hydrants
- use of HDPE pipe in sprinkler systems
- life safety sprinkler type
- 25 yearly pipe inspection
- dry riser pipes running below floor
- type of pipes for dry risers

- types of brackets for dry risers
- anti-vandal boxes for dry risers

In recent weeks the following BIF's have been updated:

BIF 15 – Types of sprinkler installations

This BIF shows the many variations of sprinkler installations available to clients

BIF 16B – Maintenance of sprinkler systems

The contents have been revised to advise clients of the importance of maintenance of their sprinkler system to ensure that it is in good working condition and ready for operation.

The images below are just some of the badly maintained equipment that has been found during the year. Proper maintenance of sprinkler systems will ensure these do not occur.

Corrodes sprinklers, fire pumps, water flow switches and serious sludge in sprinkler pipes.

Joe McCafferty
BAFSA Technical Support



BAFSA welcomes new members

Automatic Sprinkler Solutions Ltd

London
LPCB Installer Level 1

City Sprinkler Services

London
LPCB Installer Level 1

Fire Halt Installations

Associate Trade
Firehaltinstallationsltd.co.uk

MJA Designed Solutions

Associate Individual
Mjasolutions.co.uk

RadiusPlus Ltd

Associate Trade
Radius-plus.co.uk

Swann Consultancy Ltd

Kent
Associate Individual

Yearbook Alert

The 2017/2018 BAFSA Yearbook will be published in November 2016. The Yearbook remains an essential source of information for the UK fire protection community and the wider fire community. The latest list of BAFSA Members and their profiles provides vital intelligence for anyone using the Yearbook so look out for your invitation to update the information BAFSA holds on your organisation. As in previous years, advertising space will be offered to all Members.

To book a prime space email marketing@bafsa.org.uk now.

members' news & views

Distinguished guests in historic surroundings

On 9th February BAFSA hosted a seminar in the House of Parliament considering how we can better protect our past, present and future from fire. The event was sponsored by Lord Howie of Troon and specifically covered heritage assets and schools. Rob Bell of Sale Engineering recalls the proceedings.

The morning session in Committee Room 9 of the House of Commons was introduced by Lord Harrison of Chester, chaired by Jim Fitzpatrick MP, and focused on the protection of Britain's heritage from fire.

Stewart Kidd, recently retired BAFSA Secretary General commenced the day by talking about how heritage/listed buildings are often at special risk due to their aged construction, left empty, and fire protection being – arguably rightly – focused on life safety before property.

Steve Emery of Historic England listed a number of heritage properties affected by fire in recent history. He also advised that retro-fitting sprinklers will cause damage even if done sympathetically (e.g. high pressure watermist), but preferable to the total loss of any building and its irreplaceable contents.

Bob Bantock of National Trust England covered lessons learned from the Clandon Park fire in 2015. The property was fully compartmented but an avoidable electrical fault in one basement started a fire which spread quickly upwards – despite fast response from the fire service, and the recovery of some key contents, the building was totally destroyed and will be rebuilt. The National Trust are trialling various mitigations such as thermal imaging of electrical components and pushing for better fire rating of electrical cabinets.

Ged Phelan of Merseyside FRS raised various potential weaknesses in current fire service training (not all present agreed, however), especially in specialist areas such as heritage, and attributed this to ongoing government funding cuts.



Moving to the Cholmondeley Rooms in the House of Lords, a pre-lunch presentation of the Bernadette Hartley Memorial Award (for contributions to the cause of sprinklers) was made to Stewart Kidd.

After a sumptuous lunch overlooking the Thames on an unexpectedly sunny afternoon (during which Neil Wallington spoke about the trials, tribulations and hopes of the Fire Services National Museum Trust), the afternoon session which focused on sprinklers in schools, was introduced by Margaret Ferrier MP, chaired by Lord Brookman of Ebbw Vale (who attended the 1966 Aberfan disaster and never wants to see another school tragedy).

Danny Doherty of BAFSA Scotland summarised how the Scottish legislation for sprinklers in schools arose from the BRE's report in 2004 on their effectiveness in residential premises. If a serious fire effects a school, the impact goes way beyond life safety and financial cost – into long-term disruption for pupils, parents and teachers of the impacted and surrounding schools; the loss of records and irreplaceable pupils' work.

Christine Blower, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, quoted that there are around 20 fires in schools each week on average and the NUT's view is that sprinklers, estimated to cost about the same as carpets, should be mandatory in all new build and refurbished schools.

Steve Mills, BAFSA Technical Adviser, suggested some reasons why the issue of sprinklers in schools has not made more progress: not enough people understand the full impact of fire; risk assessment is often poor; and the loss of local authority control as more free schools are formed.

All in all, at the end of a long day, one has to reflect on two key messages:

- Britain's heritage assets, many the envy of the world, can never be recreated if lost; few would disagree that this collectively is a priceless asset – but, unfortunately, its protection is not and therefore who is willing to pay for this insurance policy?
- Perhaps we have been lucky in not suffering a major life-impacting fire in a British school recently; God forbid it should take such an event in order to crystallise parliamentary thinking into action on this point.



40 years of Protecting Lives and Property

In March 1976 Armstrong Priestley was formally established by Peter Armstrong. When the business began it operated from just one room above a shop with Peter carrying out the installation work and a friend helping out with design.

It's amazing how time has flown and the company is today based at its prestigious premises, 'Seventy Seven' in Holbeck Lane, Leeds to where the company moved in 2006. Peter is proud of what has been achieved over the past 40 years. The company now employs over 70 permanent employees and its reputation as being one of the UK's leading sprinkler specialists has been maintained.

Peter said "the company wouldn't be where it is today without the continued support of its long standing clients, one of which is the company's first ever client, a relationship which has lasted the 40 years. My thanks also go to the Management team and loyal members of staff as without them Armstrong Priestley wouldn't be where it is today".

We're now looking to the next 40 years!

Peter Armstrong
March 2016

BAFSA members 'do something right'

AD Sprinklers have supplied, through the UK Fire Protection supply chain, water supply testing equipment to Tyco Fire Protection's 'Frederick Grinnell Education Centre' in Cranston, Rhode Island which will in the words of Zurich's Rich Gallagher "make a major difference" for future learning at the FGEC.

All the BS EN 12845/LPC Approved equipment has been provided in order to highlight to both future clients/customers of Zurich and Tyco the key differences of how water supplies are verified on a BS EN 12845 installed sprinkler system. John Johnson and his team at Tyco have now installed the pieces provided and the equipment has gone well with John and his team, with John himself admitting "You Englishmen do something right".

AD would like to say a huge thanks to the following individuals and suppliers, all BAFSA members, for providing this equipment:

Rob Bell of Sale Engineering Products for providing the BS EN Pump Test Assembly; Justin Crabtree of Tyco FPP UK for the supply of the 80mm Proving Pipe Assembly; Mark Towner of Influx Measurements for supplying the 168mm Pump Flowmeter.

adsprinklers.co.uk

Milestones & future plans

The last six months have seen a number of significant achievements by the Kirk Group who are new entrants to the fire sprinkler market and one of BAFSA's newest members. Since gaining LPCB Approval of their Hydrostore® cylindrical galvanised tank range, new clients have gradually come on board and the business has now achieved their first £1m in sales since Hydrostore® was launched as a separate business stream within the Group.

Adam Callan has now joined the business working alongside Sales Manager Kevin Dwyer. Adam is already in the process of streamlining the project delivery processes via a fully integrated PLM (Project Lifecycle Management) system. The system ensures full compliance with CE marking accreditation to BS-EN1090-2 (for steel and aluminium structures) and BIM Level 2 compliance which becomes mandatory for all government funded projects from April 2016 and has been adopted by the Group as a standard for all our Engineering functions. LPCB approval has also now been achieved for the range of Vortex Inhibitors.

Sales Manager Kevin Dwyer commented "We are very grateful to the team at the LPCB for working closely and a specific thank you to the customer who took a huge leap of faith and worked with us on our very first project...your support will be long remembered and appreciated."

kirk-group.co.uk

New sprinklers for residential applications

The new RFS42 flat plate concealed horizontal sidewall sprinkler from Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company features a quick response fusible solder link, K-factor of 4.2 (60), spacing up to 4.9m x 6.1m, 1/8" (3.2mm) adjustment and designed to fit a 89mm stud space. Alongside the NEW RFS42 Flat Plate Concealed Horizontal Sidewall Sprinkler is the new F3RES44 for use in dry pipe systems, available with a standard escutcheon, model HB extended escutcheon or a recessed escutcheon.

For residential flat plate concealed pendent sprinklers, Reliable manufacture the RFC series, with K-factors of 3.0 (43.2), 4.3 (62), 4.9 (70.6) and 5.6 (80). Featuring low water flow requirements, cover plate (plain or perforated in a variety of colours and styles) with 1/2" (13mm) total adjustment and a thread-on/thread-off or push-on/thread-off cover attachment option for a smooth aesthetic ceiling profile.

Along with sprinklers, Reliable manufacture residential Risers in 1" (25mm), 1 1/2" (40mm) and 2" (50mm) sizes, for use in NFPA 13D and 13R Residential systems.

reliablesprinkler.com



PAV meets new NFPA 13 standard

The Potter Automatic Air Vent (PAV) from Potter Electric Signal is the only UL listed and FM approved automatic air vent for fire sprinkler systems available on the market today. The PAV is designed to reduce the amount of air in a fire sprinkler system with little or no maintenance, and is the ideal choice for meeting NFPA 13 7.1.5 which states that air vents to be installed on all new metallic wet pipe fire protection systems.

The product is also available as a PAAR-B with drip pan. Josh Tihen, Product Manager for the Corrosion Division at Potter said, "We think that this code requirement is great for the fire protection industry. It will ensure the longevity of pipe systems by reducing corrosion, saving building owners time and money." Tihen continued. "I think the Potter PAV is the best solution to meet the new requirement. It is easy to use and the fact that it is automatic saves time and money."

pottersignal.com

A long but ultimately successful journey

On 1 January 2016, it became a statutory regulation to install automatic fire sprinkler protection in all new domestic dwellings in Wales. With thanks to Ronnie King OBE, OStJ, QFSM, FIFireE who is honorary administrative secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Fire Safety and Rescue Group from whose record of this long journey these facts are taken.

"A landmark achievement in the UK's fire service history, the measure has taken the best part of ten years to accomplish." says Ronnie.

"Ann Jones AM is a fearless, determined and resolute lady, who during 20 years in the local authority fire and rescue service witnessed the devastation fire causes at first hand and

was motivated to propose that the Welsh National Assembly seek the principal power enabling it to make a measure in relation to fire safety, with the specific provision of automatic fire suppression systems in residential dwellings."

Thousands of hours of work were spent scrutinising, writing reports and debating to arrive at this point, and that doesn't exclude the many challenges and battles faced to clarify misinformation.

The journey began with the UK government's white paper, Better Governance for Wales, of June 2005; the constitutional context of which was set out in the Government of Wales Act (2006) Section 95: 'Her Majesty, by order in Council, to confer competency on the National Assembly for Wales to legislate by



Assembly Measure on specified measures'.

In June 2007, Ann won the ballot to bring forward the first proposed legislative competence order (LCO) to lay a proposed order under Standing Order 22.50, to give effect to the outline proposal. This would confer legislative competence on the National Assembly for Wales to bring forward a measure requiring all new build housing in Wales to be fitted with an automatic fire sprinkler system.

Following a process of extensive committee scrutiny and public consultation, the Assembly minister for environment, sustainability and housing, Jane Davidson





AM, confirmed acceptance of the LCO in October 2008, while pointing out that a full assessment of costs and benefits would be required at any subsequent measure stage.

The Secretary of State referred the proposed LCO to Westminster Parliament for scrutiny on 8 October 2009, and the Welsh Affairs Committee called for evidence on 14 October 2009 and published its report on 18 December 2009.

Final approval

On 19 January 2010, the draft LCO was laid in the Assembly and approved in plenary on 27 January 2010 and on 12 April 2010, it received royal approval and came to be known as 'The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing) (Fire Safety) Order 2010'.

It had been rumoured that the general election in 2010 might result in LCOs, which were still locked in the system, being lost. However, the then Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt Hon Peter Hain MP (now Lord Hain), clarified in a statement to the press, that he was keen to ensure that the LCOs

currently going through Westminster would not have to begin the whole process again because of the general election – and so it turned out.

Following this, there was a year of further detailed scrutiny through committees, in which many colleagues and myself gave evidence and were extensively challenged. After the fourth amendment and a unanimous vote in plenary session during this stage, the Assembly approved the measure in February 2011.

Draft regulations

The next legislative stage – the regulatory impact assessment and draft regulations for further consultation – turned out to be the feistiest of stages.

In 2012 and 2013 the house building industry, which was against the introduction of the measure, went to press claiming that the Welsh government's housing policies were potentially catastrophic for the industry.

In response to the Welsh questions in February 2013, the Secretary of State for Wales had said, 'New regulations made in Cardiff will likely add £11,000 to the cost of a three bedroomed house.'

Ann Jones challenged this, saying that these comments had misled the house and were impacting on public perception. However, in May 2013 the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, secretary of state for communities and local government, added fuel to the fire when he cited the cost of the 'red tape' to the Welsh housing market as being higher, at £13,000 per house. Ironically Mr Pickles in his constituency as MP for Brentwood and Ongar, had only a few years earlier, urged 'local councils and housing associations to act to save the

lives of their tenants, by installing sprinkler systems for new and rented properties'. In the same press release, he quoted £600 per property to buy and install sprinklers in a new home, saying that sprinklers do save lives and are a price worth paying.

Ann subsequently demanded an apology for quoting 'dangerously misleading' and 'incorrect' figures for the cost of installing the systems, citing the cost of sprinklers alone as £5,000 per house, as well as the other proposed and supposed eventualities. Months of providing evidence and a realistic price of fire sprinkler installation and maintenance followed.

Welsh government environment minister, John Griffiths, after consideration of the responses to the consultation and to the Regulatory Impact Assessment, then announced proposals to introduce Regulations in 2013. He said, 'We must seek to prevent avoidable death and injury from house fires and need to accept that there is a cost to introducing sprinklers into new properties.'

In January 2014 the Welsh minister for housing and regeneration, Carl Sargeant, announced that sprinkler regulations would apply to new and converted care homes from April 2014, as well as children's residential homes, hospices, halls of residences, boarding houses and some hostels. This would then apply to all new and converted houses and flats from 1 January 2016.

Mr Sargeant was quoted to have said in response to these projects, 'I am very proud that Wales is the first country in the world to require the installation of an automatic fire suppression system in all new houses and flats. Our policy on fire sprinklers is part of our continuing wider approach to promoting fire safety and we will continue to set Wales apart as leading the way in this regard.'



bafsa

dates for your diary

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association
bafsa

2016	Event	Dates and Venues
27 April	Communications & Market Development meeting	Compco, Worcester
10 May	Executive	Armstrong Priestley, Leeds
11 May	Council	Tyco Park, Manchester
18 May	Technical	Hall Fire, Manchester
24 May	Launch of Sheffield Low Rise Report and Seminar	South Yorkshire FRS Training Centre, Sheffield
25 May	Seminar	Newcastle
22 June	BAFSA Challenge and Golf Day	Mottram Hall Hotel, Mottram St Andrew, Cheshire
7 July	Executive + staff	tba
7 September	Council	Reliable, East Grinstead
21 September	Technical	Rapidrop, Peterborough
3 November	Executive	tba
15 November	Council + staff	St David's Hotel, Cardiff
15 November	AGM & Dinner	St David's Hotel, Cardiff
16 November	Fire Sprinkler 2016	St David's Hotel, Cardiff

2017	Tentative	
10 January	Exec + staff	tba
11 January	Council	tba
15 March	Seminar : protecting elderly & vulnerable from fire	London FB HQ, London



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

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