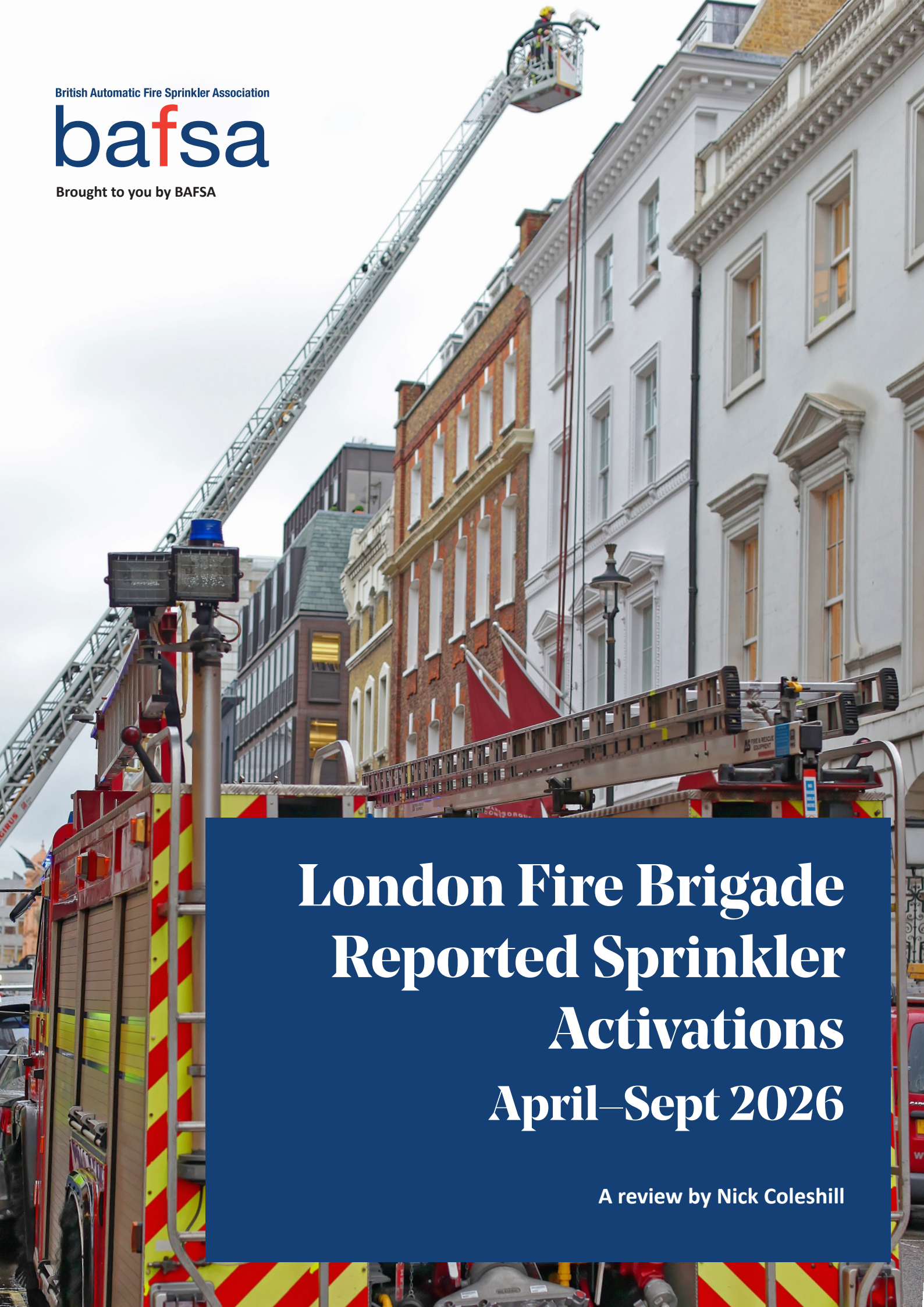
British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

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London Fire Brigade Reported Sprinkler Activations

April–Sept 2026

A review by Nick Coleshill

“In bringing together and sharing real life examples of where sprinklers have had an impact, Sprinkler Saves has become a vital resource in helping to demonstrate the difference they make.”

Phil Garrigan, Chair of the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC)

Introduction

137,412

Incidents attended by LFB in 2025

19,542

fires across Greater London

10m

estimated population of Greater London by 2035

We thank the London Fire Brigade (LFB) for its continued support and leadership in promoting the benefits of fire sprinklers through Sprinkler Saves Uk. †32 sprinkler activations were reported across Greater London through the LFB Incident Recording System (IRS), with Automatic Water Suppression Systems (AWSS) recorded as present and having an impact.

This evidence supports the call by Phil Garrigan, Chair of the NFCC, for Fire and rescue services to share fire data and case studies with Sprinkler Saves UK. The outcome of which will help influence decision makers, building owners and others responsible for decisions on sprinkler installation to increase the presence of AWSS within the built environment.

Using AWSS primary fire data evidence to engage MPs

Evidence is essential to driving change. IRS data provides detailed, real-world examples that demonstrate how AWSS can reduce the impact of fire and support their wider adoption across the built environment. Raising awareness of sprinklers and other forms of AWSS helps to show how fire damage can be mitigated, and in many cases prevented, as part of a wider package of fire safety measures that protects lives, firefighters, homes and businesses.

As part of The British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association's (BAFSA) campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of AWSS, this review provides further evidence AWSS protect people, firefighters and property while reducing the impact of fire on communities. BAFSA's Chief Executive Ali Perry regularly shares these case studies with local MPs and other dignitaries to demonstrate AWSS effectiveness, encourage stronger regulation and promote sprinkler installation in buildings where BAFSA has significant safety concerns

Stakeholder feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing support for AWSS and the wider commitment to fire safety. It also shows why sustained, evidence-based advocacy is essential to influence government policy, strengthen regulation and secure greater inclusion of sprinklers in national fire-safety strategies.

The Sprinkler Saves campaign is an important tool for engaging policymakers, while IRS data provides another vital source of evidence. BAFSA recognises its value in assessing AWSS performance and has published reports analysing fires in sprinkler-protected buildings using IRS data since 2022.

London Fire Brigade

LFB Is one of the world's largest, firefighting, rescue community safety rescue services protecting Greater London's residents, property, workers and visitors. In 2025, it attended 137,412 incidents – an average of 376 a day – including 19,542 fires across Greater London.[1]

London

Greater London, the UK capital and largest city, has a population of just over nine million, projected to reach 10 million by 2035, and is among the world's most ethnically diverse cities. It comprises 32 boroughs plus the City of London, a separate county and local-government district. Fire risks range from industrial premises, complex shopping centres and major transport hubs to high-rise residential developments. The latter are particularly significant because half of Londoners live in flats, compared with fewer than 20% elsewhere in the country.

The review

The incidents in this review provide strong evidence that AWSS deliver reliable protection for people, property and the environment while reducing risks to firefighters.

- Providing evidence on the vital role fire sprinklers and other forms of suppression play by highlighting real life, tangible examples.
- Raising awareness of the importance of collating sprinkler actuations, so societal awareness of the true value of sprinklers can be increased.
- Allowing trends, anomalies to be identified in the emerging UK AFSS firefighting industry allowing the continued review of technical standards ensuring best practice within the sector.
- Providing evidence reaffirming the reliability and effectiveness of sprinkler systems following the two reports published by [2]Optimal Economics and commissioned by the NFCC, National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN) into the performance, reliability, and effectiveness of sprinkler systems in controlling and extinguishing fires.

This review focuses on two key areas

- Case reviews of five fires across five building categories in Greater London, where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact between April and September 2026:
  1. Secondary School
  2. Residential block of flats
  3. Student halls of residence
  4. Specialised housing complex
  5. Car park
- Analysis of the primary fire data captured from [†]32 reported fires in Greater London where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact for the 6-month period covering April-September 2026.

Together, these findings strengthen the case for making AWSS a statutory requirement in new buildings within these categories in England. They also support BAFSA's advocacy by turning primary fire data into persuasive evidence for policy and parliamentary engagement and reinforcing the case for wider inclusion of AWSS in national building-safety policy.

Case reviews, the incidents

JULY 2026

Lambeth Secondary School

In the past 13 months, the benefits of installing sprinklers in educational buildings have been evidenced following three reported school fires to Sprinkler Saves, on each occasion the fire was contained and controlled by the building sprinkler system preventing the fires spreading and causing further damage.

i. 23 August 2025; Julian's Primary School Streatham, London
ii. 11 March 2026; Saint John Henry Newman Catholic College, Greater Manchester
iii. 22 July 2026; Awel Y Mor Primary School, Port Talbot

These real-life tangible incidents reinforce the vital role AWSS can play in protecting pupils, staff, firefighters and important community assets as part of a comprehensive fire safety strategy. They also provide further evidence for decision makers, building owners and others responsible for sprinkler installation, supporting the case for protecting new schools in England with sprinkler systems, as already required in Wales and Scotland.

On 10 July 2026, LFB responded to reports of a fire at a Lambeth secondary school. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a fire involving a toilet/bathroom area had been extinguished by the activation of the school sprinkler system. 1 sprinkler head activated limiting fire spread to the item first ignited, no further firefighting was required. Investigations are ongoing to establish the cause of the fire.

Prompt sprinkler activation prevented a major fire, reducing the incident to a minor disruption and enabling the school a valuable community resource to reopen quickly.

The [3]London Assembly reports that schools face a persistent fire risk from arson, with classrooms, toilets and storage areas often targeted. Analysis of [4]primary fire data for England from 2010 to 2025 revealed 14 fires involving toilets where sprinklers were present and had an impact. Sprinklers extinguished 12 fires and contained or controlled the remaining two. Damage was limited to the room of origin in 13 cases and to the item first ignited in one.

> **"The research also found that 97% of school fires over the previous 14 years occurred in buildings without sprinkler protection"**

A report commissioned by the [5]NFSN warns that school fires cost more than £126 million annually and cause widespread disruption to children's education. Six incidents occur each week, damaging at least one classroom. The research also found that 97% of school fires over the previous 14 years occurred in buildings without sprinkler protection.

Where fire sprinklers were installed and activated, they contained or controlled the fire in 71% of incidents and extinguished it in a further 27%, giving an overall effectiveness rate of 98%.

Sprinkler systems are mandatory in new school buildings in Scotland and a condition of government funding in Wales. However, they are not mandatory in schools in England or Northern Ireland, despite growing evidence of their effectiveness and the substantial educational financial and community costs associated with school fires.

The Lambeth incident demonstrates the value of sprinklers. The system operated as designed, containing and extinguishing the fire, limiting damage and helping to keep a vital educational building operational. Without sprinklers, the outcome could have been very different, as shown by the February 2026 fire at a [6]special educational needs school in Okehampton, Devon. That fire destroyed the entire roof and first floor and damaged approximately 80% of the ground floor. The school, first occupied in the 2023/24 academic year, has since resumed face-to-face teaching across three temporary sites around Okehampton.

BAFSA, working with the NFSN and the NFCC is urging ministers to act on the evidence and ensure that new educational buildings in England are designed with AWSS from the outset. The association says the cost of prevention is far outweighed by the human, educational and financial consequences of a major school fire.

The NFSN's *The Case for Fire Sprinklers in Educational Buildings* states that classrooms are lost to fire every week in England, disrupting education, displacing children and families, and depriving communities of vital infrastructure. Its message is clear: sprinklers are not an optional extra but an essential investment in educational continuity, community resilience and long-term economic security.

This Image taken following the fire at Awel Y Mor Primary School, demonstrates the benefits sprinklers can bring protecting our schools from fire, on this occasion a fire involving sandwich panels was prevented from spreading into the primary building following the activation of the building sprinkler system which contained and controlled the fire.



Port Talbot School Sprinkler Save
Image: Compco Fire Systems Limited

AUGUST 2026

Brent - Student Halls of Residence

On 11 August 2026, LFB responded to a fire in a 19-storey student hall of residence in West London. On arrival, firefighters found that one sprinkler head had activated and extinguished a fire in a toilet. The fire was confined to the room of origin, and no further firefighting was required. A discarded cigarette was reported as the cause of the fire.

This incident provides further evidence for making sprinklers mandatory in this building category. The case is reinforced by three fires reported to Sprinkler Saves by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service within 12 months, involving cooking or incense candles. In each incident, the sprinkler system contained, controlled or extinguished the fire, demonstrating the value of sprinklers

These incidents reinforce BAFSA's call for all buildings where people sleep including student accommodation to be protected by sprinklers as part of a package of fire safety measures.

Student accommodation presents a challenging fire-safety environment, with many residents living away from home for the first time. [7]LFB reports that, over the past five years, crews attended 145 incidents in student accommodation and halls of residence, with cooking responsible for one-third of callouts in the capital.

The risks in student accommodation were highlighted by the fire at the Cube in Bolton on 15 November 2019. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's incident report described the speed at which the fire took hold and its devastating impact on the building. Two residents, trapped by heat and smoke, were rescued by firefighters; sprinklers were not installed. Although new fire-safety rules have lowered the sprinkler height threshold for new residential blocks of flats from 30 metres to 11 metres, this requirement still does not extend to student accommodation or other buildings providing sleeping accommodation. Must another tragedy like the Cube or Grenfell occur before the government acts?

BAFSA is calling for all buildings where people sleep, including student accommodation, to be protected by sprinkler systems as part of a wider package of fire safety measures.

This image taken following the fire in a Nottingham Student Halls of residence clearly demonstrates the benefits of sprinklers for fires involving cooking in this case an electric fryer which was extinguished by the building sprinkler system with no injuries reported.



Nottingham Student Accomodation Sprinkler Save
Image: Nationwide Sprinklers

"BAFSA is calling for all buildings where people sleep, including student accommodation, to be protected by sprinkler systems as part of a wider package of fire safety measures."

MAY–JULY 2026

Balcony fires in purpose-built flats across Greater London

Private balconies are a common feature of modern residential buildings, providing outdoor space and, in some cases, additional storage area. However, these uses can introduce fire risks and create operational challenges.

i. Combustible materials may be stored on balconies.
ii. Combustible balcony construction materials can accelerate fire spread across external walls.

Two balcony fires were reported in purpose-built residential flats: one in Tower Hamlets on 13 May 2026 and one in Hounslow on 13 July 2026. In both cases, the building's AWSS operated containing or extinguished the fire with the support of firefighters using firefighting media. Both fires were accidental and caused by the unsafe disposal of cigarettes.

In both incidents, the AWSS was recorded on the same floor as the fire. Because sprinkler coverage is not required on private balconies and both fires started outside the flats, the systems' immediate firefighting capability was limited.

Further enquiries with LFB would be needed to confirm the sequence of events, including whether the fire's intensity caused glazing beside the balconies to fail, allowing flames to enter the flats and activate the sprinkler systems. The systems were reported to have contained, controlled and extinguished the fires.

Without the residential sprinkler systems, the fires could have developed into fully involved compartment fires within the flats and spread across the external walls, with potentially more serious consequences.

BS 9251 does not require sprinklers protection on private balconies unless the building's fire strategy specifies them or stakeholders request them in consultation with the sprinkler-system designer. Life-safety systems are designed to detect and control internal fires early, raise the alarm, and reduce heat and smoke, giving occupants more time to escape or be rescued.

Legislative and regulatory reforms introduced after the Grenfell fire require all external-wall materials, including specified attachments such as balconies, to be non-combustible.

This prompts consideration of sprinkler protection for private balconies, although such provision would create further challenges for the sprinkler sector. Otherwise,

the risk of balcony fires may persist until combustible construction materials are removed.

LFB has recognised the risk posed by balcony fires and issued a safety warning in a press release, identifying more than 236 smoking-related balcony fires occurred across London between April 2012 and September 2025. Smoking remains the leading cause of balcony fires.

LFB West Hampstead Square AFSS activation case study report

One of London's most high-profile sprinkler activations occurred during the West Hampstead balcony fire on 3 July 2018, involving a 12-storey purpose-built block of flats.

Within 19 minutes of the first sprinkler head activating, five apartments were exposed to fire and heat, resulting in 12 sprinkler heads operating preventing flash over—an unprecedented level of activations for a residential fire. The fire is believed to have been accidental and caused by the unsafe disposal of smoking materials.

Following its investigation, LFB commissioned a case-study report to demonstrate to the residential sector how effectively AFSS can respond to a multi-point fire in a high-rise residential building.

JULY 2026

Newham Specialised Housing Scheme

Demographic change and longer life expectancy mean that specialised and extra-care housing accommodates increasing numbers of residents with mobility limitations, sensory impairments and cognitive difficulties. These factors can increase residents' vulnerability during a fire.

BAFSA welcomed the government's announcement that sprinklers would be mandatory in all newly built care homes from March 2025. However, the requirement does not cover specialised housing, even though its residents often face risks similar to those in care homes. NFCC fire-safety guidance recommends AWSS in specialised housing, but this is not a statutory requirement. England therefore lags behind Scotland and Wales, where AWSS are required in new specialised housing.

"This operational evidence strengthens BAFSA's advocacy, supports policy and parliamentary engagement, and reinforces the case for wider inclusion of sprinklers in national building policy."

A fire on 30 July 2026 demonstrated the value of AWSS in protecting vulnerable residents. LFB attended a fire at an affordable later-living scheme in Newham comprising 75 self-contained flats and communal areas

The building's automatic sprinkler system activated and controlled and extinguished a bedroom fire involving an electrical item, containing it to the room of origin. All residents were accounted for, no injuries were reported, and the incident was resolved quickly and safely with limited fire spread and property damage.

This incident demonstrates that fire sprinklers can control fires before the fire can escalate in this case involving an electrical item limiting fire damage, reducing the risk to people, firefighters, property and the environment.

It also reinforces the longstanding advocacy of BAFSA, the NFSN and the NFCC for sprinklers in specialised housing and supports calls for the government to follow Scotland and Wales by extending sprinkler requirements to this sector.

This operational evidence strengthens BAFSA's advocacy, supports policy and parliamentary engagement, and reinforces the case for wider inclusion of sprinklers in national building policy.

By contrast, the August 2019 fire that destroyed the Beachmere extra-care retirement village in Crewe highlights the danger fire poses in this sector. The village contained 132 apartments for some of the community's most vulnerable residents. Although no lives were lost, more than 150 people lost their homes. Sprinklers had not been installed because building regulations did not require them.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Southwest London, shopping centre car park fire

At 12:29 on Wednesday 23 September 2026, LFB received a report of a vehicle fire in a shopping-centre car park. The vehicle was destroyed, four people were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, two were taken to hospital, and 200 people were evacuated from the shopping centre.

The fire began in a van and activated the building's sprinkler system. Two sprinkler heads operated, slowing the fire's growth and containing or controlling it until firefighters extinguished it using firefighting media.

[8]Tom Roche of the Business Sprinkler Alliance highlights that current proposals to Approved Document B to increase structural fire resistance in open-sided car parks to 30–60 minutes acknowledge modern fire risks but fail to address the core issue: preventing fire spread.

Modern vehicles are now larger and more combustible, allowing fires to spread more rapidly between vehicles, reducing the window for intervention. Structural resilience helps delay collapse but does not stop fires from escalating, as demonstrated by incidents at Luton Airport (2023), Kings Dock Liverpool (2017), and Addenbrooke Hospital (2025), which caused significant financial and operational disruption.

Health and Safety Executive research confirms that present-day car-park fires are more severe than the scenarios on which existing regulations were based. Unlike reliance on structural resistance alone, early suppression – particularly through automatic sprinkler systems – has been shown to contain fires before extensive damage occurs.

Tom Roche argues that regulatory reform should prioritise preventing fire spread through measures including sprinklers and barriers, especially in car parks that support critical infrastructure and community services, to reduce safety and business impacts.

Would the Southwest London car park fire have turned out differently if no sprinklers had been fitted?

BAFSA supports the recommendations contained in the NFCC, AWSS Position Statement that the Government should:

- Require AWSS in all enclosed car parks.
- Commission further, in-depth research into car-park fires and car-park design.

Analysis of the primary fire data captured from †32 reported fires where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact for the period April-September 2026

Incident Recording System (IRS)

When a household or business has made an emergency fire call, key information around the incident is captured, inputted daily into the IRS by the Incident Commander of the incident using software forms structured into logical groups. For the most severe fire incidents the senior fire investigation officer compiles a report that details the findings of the investigation and the most likely origin and cause. Once completed, this officer reviews and where necessary updates the IRS record to reflect the findings of the investigation.

Each group contains questions in data fields with associated lists containing the appropriate answer options. Data collected about serious reportable fires include:

- Time and date of call
- Fire Service or other geographical area
- Type of building or vehicle
- Most likely motive (accidental or malicious)
- Cause of fire (chip pan fires, electrical, etc.)
- Source of ignition (cigarettes, cookers, etc.)
- Materials (furniture, etc.)
- The spread of fire (beyond room of origin, etc.)
- The nature of fire casualties
- Rescue information and method of extinction
- The effectiveness of automatic smoke detectors
- Were there any active safety systems present?

The importance of monitoring AWSS incident data has been acknowledged by the inclusion of the active safety system field focusing on the following performance characteristics of AWSS fire data.

- Type of active safety system present
- Location of active safety systems in relation to fire
- Did the system operate
- How many operated
- Impact upon fire
- Reason system did not function as intended

The IRS data captured is dependent on the fire officer who inputs the data and their training, experience of AWSS and commitment to complete reporting. Not all fire officers might be able to identify the difference between a sprinkler or water mist system or take the time to count the number of sprinkler head activations before leaving the scene.

The use of IRS data plays an important role in promoting the benefits of AWSS as part of a combination of fire safety measures to reduce the impact of fire on our communities, property and the environment, while assisting fire firefighters in carrying out search and rescue operations by limiting fire development.

It should be remembered the installation of a life safety sprinkler system is to reduce the rate of heat and smoke, allowing more time for the occupants to escape to safety or be rescued. The provision of a sprinkler system does not neglect the need for other fire practical precautions or provisions where the person is at higher-than-average risk from fire, unable to self-evacuate in the event of a fire.

Optimal Economics Report

These incidents provide further evidence, supporting the [2]UK research which was commissioned by The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN) and supported by BAFSA that identified across all premises types:

- Sprinklers are 99% efficient in extinguishing or controlling a fire.
- Sprinklers are 94% efficient in their ability to operate.

Review of data submitted to Sprinkler Saves from 32 fire incidents for the month of April-September 2026 where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact.

This data set includes information on a variety of fires affecting various building property types where AWSS were present and had an impact, offering further proof of their effectiveness and reliability. Of these Table 1 identifies 23 incidents, involving sprinklers, whilst water mist systems accounted for 5 with drencher systems with 4.

"The use of IRS data plays an important role in promoting the benefits of AWSS"

No	Property Type	Sprinklers	Water Mist	Drencher	Grand Total
1	Bulk Waste Storage	1			1
2	Converted Flat/Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	2			2
3	Hospital	1			1
4	Hotel/motel	1			1
5	Infant/Primary and Secondary school	2			2
6	Prison		2	1	3
7	Pub/wine bar/bar	1			1
8	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	2			2
9	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	5	2		7
10	Recycling plant	5	1	1	7
11	Restaurant/cafe			1	1
12	Single shop			1	1
13	Student Hall of Residence	1			1
14	Warehouse	1			1
15	Underground car park	1			1
	Grand Total	23	5	4	32

Table 1 primary fire data relating to primary fires attended by LFB where AWSS were present and having an impact from April-September 2026

Take-aways

- Unsurprisingly, in table 1 sprinkler systems dominate the figures compared to water mist in residential buildings, due to the guidance contained in Approved Document B for the installation of BS9251 sprinkler systems.
- Purpose built flats/maisonettes dominate the figures for the property type with 9. This should be of no surprise, Post the Grenfell Tower fire regulatory and sector changes relating to fire safety have occurred. One such change has been the increase in installations of sprinklers across the country with housing providers, local authorities and developers committing to install sprinklers in purpose-built block of flats on a new and retrofit basis.
- The data identified 4 incidents of which one involved a recycling plant where a drencher system was recorded for the active fire safety system presence which should be expected due to the risk. Further analysis of the data would be required to confirm that the appropriate active firefighting system was selected by the end user for the remaining incidents involving a prison, shop and a restaurant/café.
- Drenchers are a system of waterheads that are used for the fire protection normally found on the exterior of a building to protect against a fire from an adjacent building, positioned on roofs and over window openings.

Of the 32 fires in the property types of data on the AWSS effectiveness is available for where the system operated as shown in figure 1.

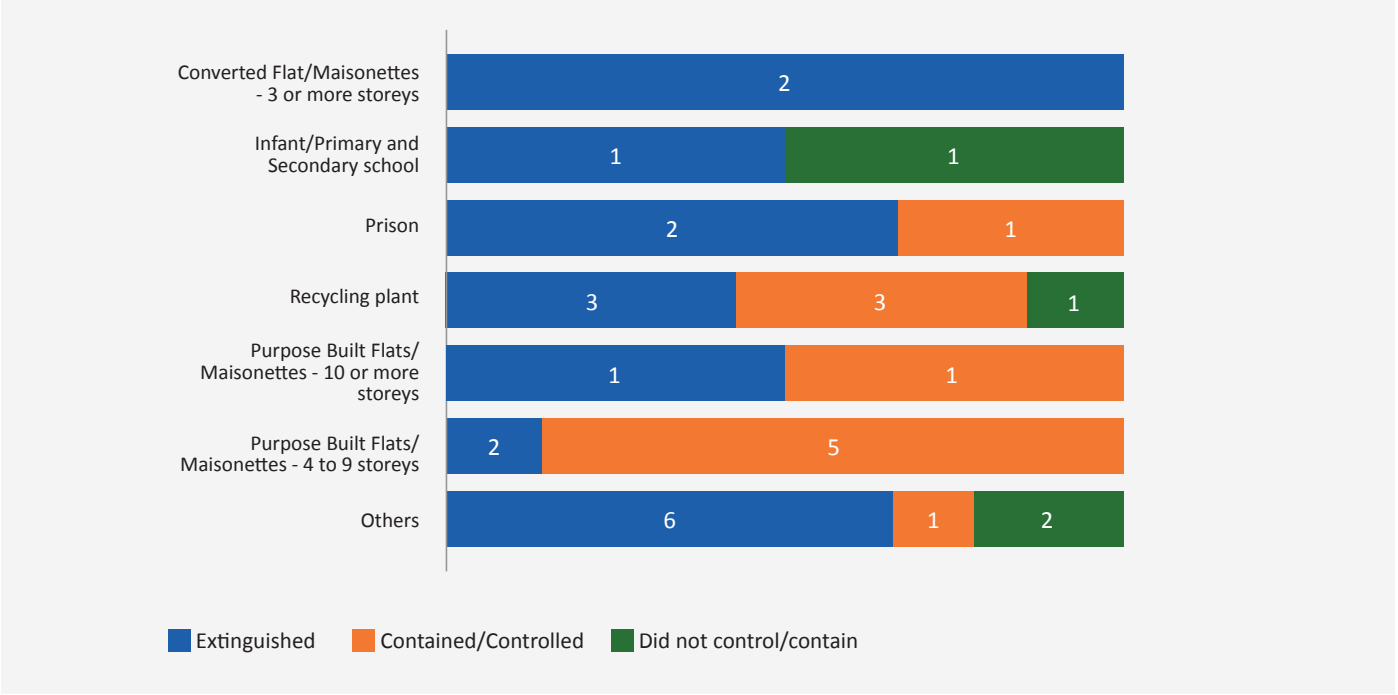


Figure 1: Impact on fires where systems operated by building property types for the period April-September 2026 within Greater London

Take-aways

- What the data is unable to confirm within figure 1 are the reasons behind why 4 AWSS activations did not contain/ control the fire, further enquires would have to be completed with LFB
- Further interrogation of the data revealed that in one incident the sprinkler system was reported to be on a different floor than the fire. This involved the roof with solar panels, which wouldn't have been sprinkler-protected. For the remaining three incidents no further information was available.

Fires by source of ignition where sprinklers were present and had an impact

When we break down the 32 incidents, the fire data demonstrates evidence regarding the range of ignition sources.

Ignition source	April–September 2026
Batteries generators	3
Candles/tea lights	2
Cigarette/smoking materials	7
Cooker	4
Deep fay fryer	1
Industrial dryer	1
Not known/Other	9
Other appliance or equipment	1
Other domestic style appliance	1
Ring/hot plate (not part of cooker	1
Solar Panel	1
Vehicle electrical fault	1
Total	32

Table 2 Number of fires by ignition source

Take-aways

- Batteries/generators accounted for 3 activations involving recycling plants, fires are commonly driven by the incorrect disposal of lithium-ion batteries now found in many household items, which are crushed, punctured during processing, potentially triggering a thermal runaway fire.
- Cigarette/smoking materials accounted for 7 activations predominately in residential purpose-built flats/maisonettes.
- Further enquires would have to be completed with LFB to interrogate the 9 incidents recorded as not known/other to identify the cause of the fire.

Of the 32 fires where the AWSS operated data is available on the number of heads that operated for 23 incidents. The distribution of these fires by the number of heads operating is shown in figure 2. It is not surprising that the figures are dominated by the operation of 1-2 heads accounting for 65% (15) of the fires.

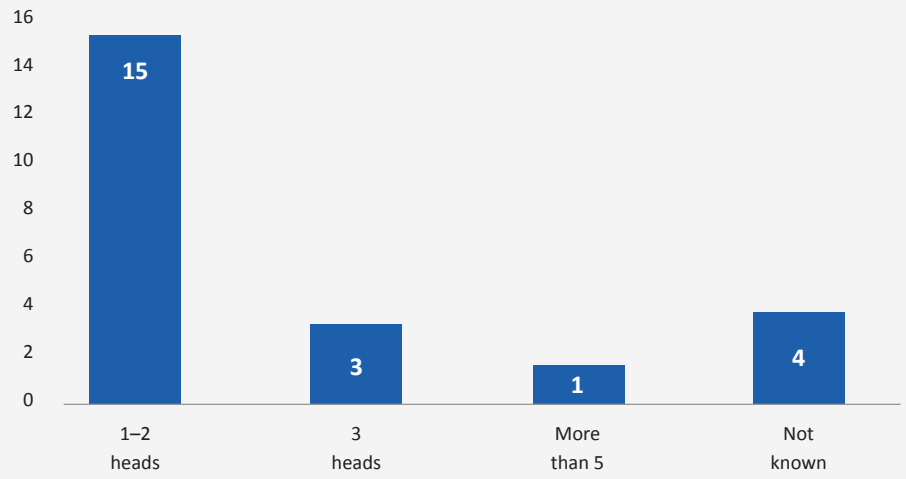


Figure2. Number of fires by the number of sprinkler heads activated for 16 fires for April-August 2026

Take-aways

- This fire incident data report is further evidence supporting the most recent [2]UK research. The report identified of the 788 incidents, in 65% of fires, only one sprinkler head was activated with a further 20% of fires activating two heads.
- What the data is unable to confirm is the number of heads actuated that are recorded as not known. To identify the number of heads for a specific actuation, further investigation of the data would be required by looking at other fields which are important to identify the impact following the activation of sprinklers in the analysis of sprinkler fires and liaising with LFB.

Appendix A
LFB Primary fire data where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact for the period April to September 2026

No	Date of Incident	Borough	Use of building	Location of fire	Ignition Source	Firefighting action	Fire Spread	Number of system heads operated	Location of System	Firefighting system impact	FF System Type
1	April 2026	Enfield	Recycling plant	Other	Batteries, generators	Hosereel (high pressure) (HRJ) - tank supply only	Limited to item 1st ignited		In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Drencher
2	April 2026	WANDSWORTH	Recycling plant	Other	Batteries, generators	Hosereel (low pressure) (HR) - augmented supply	Limited to room of origin	1	In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	Sprinklers
3	April 2026	BARKINGAND DAGENHAM	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes – 4 to 9 storeys	Kitchen	Cooker incl. oven	Hose reel (high pressure) (HRJ) - augmented supply	Limited to room of origin	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
4	April 2026	EALING	Warehouse	Process/ Production room	Industrial dryer	No firefighting	Limited to room of origin	1	On same floor as fire	Did not contain/ control	Sprinklers
5	April 2026	SOUTHWARK	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Kitchen	Cooker incl. oven	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
6	April 2026	BARKINGAND DAGENHAM	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Other	Other	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to item 1st ignited		In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	watermist
7	May 2026	TOWER HAMLETS	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	Private balcony	Cigarette	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	1	On same floor as fire	Contained/ Controlled	Sprinklers
8	May 2026	LAMBETH	Prison	Bathroom/ Toilet	Candles/ Tea lights - Secondary lighting	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited		On same floor as fire	Extinguished	Water mist
9	May 2026	BRENT	Converted Flat/ Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	Bedroom	Candles/Tea lights - Social use	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
10	May 2026	GREENWICH	Prison	Other	Smoking materials	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited		In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Drencher
11	May 2026	CITY OF LONDON	Restaurant/cafe	Kitchen	Cooker incl. oven	Hosereel (high pressure) (HRJ) - tank supply only	Limited to item 1st ignited		In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Drencher
12	May 2026	CITY OF LONDON	Pub/wine bar/bar	Canteen/ Restaurant	Not known	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	Not known	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
13	June 2026	HOUNSLOW	Prison	Other	Smoking materials	Immersed in water	Limited to item 1st ignited		On same floor as fire	Contained/ Controlled	Water mist
14	June 2026	HOUNSLOW	Single shop	Kitchen	Cooker incl. oven	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited		In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Drencher
15	July 2026	LAMBETH	Hotel/motel	Kitchen	Deep fat fryer	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
16	July 2026	LAMBETH	Secondary school	Bathroom/ Toilet	Not known	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers

LONDON FIRE BRIGADE: REPORTED SPRINKLER ACTIVATIONS

No	Date of Incident	Borough	Use of building	Location of fire	Ignition Source	Firefighting action	Fire Spread	Number of system heads operated	Location of System	Firefighting system impact	FF System Type
17	July 2026	SOUTHWARK	Recycling plant	Other	Batteries, generators	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	Not Known	In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	Sprinklers
18	July 2026	HOUNSLOW	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Private balcony	Cigarette	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to room of origin		On same floor as fire	Extinguished	Water mist
19	July 2026	HILLINGDON	Infant/Primary school	Roof	Solar panel	Hosereel (high pressure) (HRJ) - augmented supply	Limited to floor of origin (not whole building)	2	Different floor from fire	Did not contain/ control	Sprinklers
20	July 2026	LAMBETH	Recycling plant	Other	Not known	Main branch/Jet (J)	Whole building	Not known	In room of origin of fire	Did not contain/ control	Sprinklers
21	July 2026	ISLINGTON	Bulk waste storage	Process/ Production room	Not known	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to room of origin	Not known	In room of origin of fire	Did not contain/ control	Sprinklers
22	August 2026	ENFIELD	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Kitchen	Ring/hot plate (not part of cooker)	No firefighting		1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
23	August 2026	TOWER HAMLETS	Hospital	Storeroom	Other appliance or equipment	Removal from/of heat source	Limited to room of origin	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
24	August 2026	HACKNEY	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Refuse store/Bin room	Cigarette	Hosereel (high pressure) (HRJ) - tank supply only	Limited to room of origin	1	In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	Sprinklers
25	August 2026	EALING	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 4 to 9 storeys	Kitchen	Not known	No firefighting	Limited to room of origin	3	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
26	August 2026	BEXLEY	Recycling plant	Refuse store/Bin room	Other	Main branch/Jet (J)	Limited to room of origin		In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	Water mist
27	August 2026	BRENT	Student Hall of Residence	Bathroom/ Toilet	Cigarette	No firefighting	Limited to room of origin	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
28	August 2026	WANDSWORTH	Converted Flat/ Maisonettes - 3 or more storeys	Open plan area	Other domestic style appliance	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	3	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
29	August 2026	LEWISHAM	Purpose Built Flats/Maisonettes - 10 or more storeys	Refuse store/Bin room	Cigarette	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	1	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
30	August 2026	BRENT	Recycling plant	Process/ Production room	Not known	No firefighting	Limited to room of origin	3	In room of origin of fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
31	September 2026	Hounslow	Recycling plant	Refuse store/Bin room	Not known	No firefighting	Limited to item 1st ignited	5	On same floor as fire	Extinguished	Sprinklers
32	September 2026	HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM	Underground car park	Parking garage	Vehicle electrical fault	Hosereel (high pressure) (HRJ) - augmented supply	Limited to room of origin	2	In room of origin of fire	Contained/ Controlled	Sprinklers

Sources, references and further reading

† At the time of publication, the sprinkler activation referenced in this review for the Newham specialised housing scheme was not included in the IRS data provided.
1 London Assembly LFB Data Analysis, March 2026
2 Optimal Economics Sprinkler report publication, "Efficiency and Effectiveness of Sprinkler Systems in the United Kingdom: An Analysis from Fire Service Data".
3 London Assembly School Arson question to the mayor
4 Home Office, Fire Incidents in education premises England 2010-2024/FOI request for primary fires attended by FRSs where AWSS were present, having an impact for England
5 Optimal economics report, what is the cost of fires in schools February 2026
6 FM Briefing, Stuart O'Brien Okehampton SEND school
7 LFB press release Fire safety tips, student halls of residence 18/09/26
8 Tom Roche Business Sprinkler Alliance, evolution article- Are we solving the wrong problem in car park fire safety.

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Appendix A, Details of all fires where AWSS were reported as present and having an impact for the period April to September 2026