



Construction Products Regulation

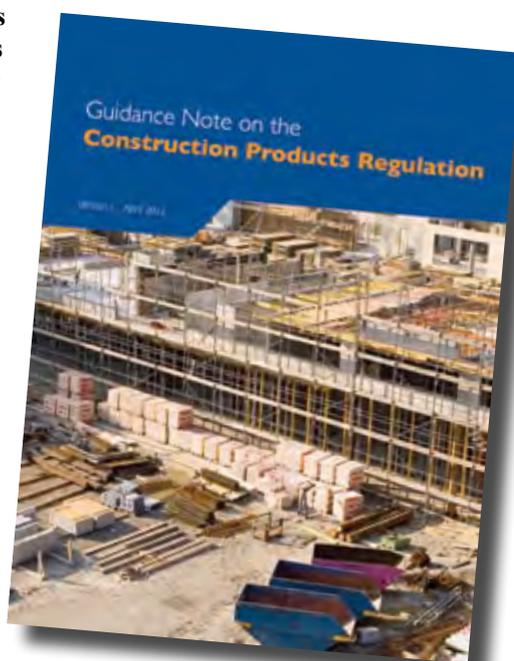
The Construction Products Regulation (CPR) has been promulgated by the European Commission and adopted by the UK Government and replaces the Construction Products Directive (CPD). As a result of the change, CE marking will soon become mandatory in the UK. Manufacturers and importers of construction products have until 1 July 2013 to ensure that their construction products meet the CE requirements of the new Regulation, under the terms of which a CE mark is required for:

'any product or kit which is produced and placed on the market for incorporation in a permanent manner in construction works or parts thereof and the performance of which has an effect on the performance of the construction works with respect to the basic requirements for construction works.'

In addition to the need to display a CE mark, any products that fall under this definition that are placed on the market from July 2013 and are covered by a harmonised standard, will have to be accompanied by a Declaration of Performance.

Thus, any company which manufactures or imports products that are within the scope of the Regulation will be required to declare that the products comply with the Regulation and display the CE mark, before they can be sold in the UK and Europe. The responsibility for ensuring that a product has the correct characteristics for a particular application rests with the building designers, contractors and local building authorities, and manufacturers and importers will be required to provide the necessary testing evidence.

The British Board of Agrément is one of a group of industry organisations which has prepared a guidance document about the CPR. Visit www.bbacerts.co.uk, search for 'A guide to the CPR', click on 'guidance document' and select Open. ❖



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CFOA warns of impact of fire service cuts

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) is warning that English F&RSs are facing a 'perfect storm' of financial pressures which, if not addressed, may lead to a drastic reduction in firefighting capacity, increases in community risk, loss of vital prevention work and a threat to maintaining national resilience. This comes at a time when there is a high likelihood of an increase in demand for our prevention and response services as a consequence of an ageing population and as deprivation increases due to the economic recession. The fire and rescue service is facing:

- ❖ backloaded cuts in central grant funding as a result of austerity measures;
- ❖ further cuts caused by the localisation of council tax benefit;
- ❖ reduced council tax bases and ability to raise income locally;
- ❖ the impact of the economic downturn on risks to commercial premises, particularly the increased risk of arson;
- ❖ potential increases in pension costs.

These all converge during 2013-2015 to create a 'perfect storm' - one which CFOA believes will leave many FRSs with no option but to cut frontline services with a consequent increase in local and national risk.

During the summer of 2012 CFOA conducted a survey of England's F&RSs to determine how Services plan to meet the challenges of 'doing more or the same with less'. The early results are stark and CFOA is presenting this report to inform Government, locally elected politicians and the public of the impact that F&RSs have at both local and national level; the efficiencies we have achieved to date; and the challenges of protecting communities and keeping people safe as F&RSs are subjected to further cuts to funding. The report is downloadable from: www.cfoa.org.uk/13852. ❖

CEN reviews EN 12845

Originally seen in the UK as BS EN 12845, EN 12845: 2003 was the work of a task group of the Comité Européen de Normalisation. While amendments have been published since its first appearance, it was acknowledged that, during the years when it was in preparation, different technologies had been developed for special applications, including:

- ❖ early suppression fast response sprinklers;
- ❖ large drop sprinklers;
- ❖ residential sprinklers;
- ❖ special in-rack sprinklers.

It was said that the engineering of such applications was also quite specialised and that it was intended to include them in future editions of the Standard. It had been supposed that another edition of BS EN 12845 (which had been expected in 2011) would include requirements and recommendations relating to some of these new applications. In the event, the extent of the necessary amendments was ruled to be too large by CEN. Instead, the committee would work the changes into the text as the first complete Review of the Standard. At the time of writing (October 2012) the new text is ready and is expected to be sent to the national standards bodies for a vote, with possible publication in the Spring of 2013. The new edition of the Standard will bring in ESFR and CMSA sprinklers.

The committee's work on the Review involves:

- ❖ setting a more logical sequence of topics within the document;
- ❖ reviewing all the clauses and the hundreds of proposed changes thereto;
- ❖ the introduction of new clauses (for example, a treatment of ESFR systems).

To speed up the process the CEN committee has split into groups to deal with separate sections of the Standard. All groups will agree all revisions of all sections. BAFSA has a representative in the BSI delegation to the committee and hopes to be able to influence the inclusion of paragraphs from the LPC Rules where appropriate. It is proposed to keep BAFSA members informed of progress via reports from its Technical Committee which will be lodged on the website and in future issues of *Focus*. ❖



BAFSA members may like to be reminded that copies of the Callow Mount report and DVD are still available.

BAFSA members: single copies of the report or the DVD are available free to members, post free. **Others (in the UK):** single copy of the report, £25.00, post paid; 5 copies or more, £10.00 each. Postage will be charged for orders over 1 copy.

CSMA sprinklers

There is a really helpful account of the control-mode specific-application (CSMA) sprinkler in the NFPA publication *Operation of Fire Protection Systems*, edited by Art Cote, where it is described as one of a series of alternative sprinkler heads suitable for use in a system designed for the protection of stored goods, systems designed with reference to NFPA 13.

The explanation first deals with CMDA (control-mode density-area) sprinklers (k-factors from 5.6 to 25.2) in which discharge densities operating over a specified area may be chosen via NFPA 13. The principle is that the first sprinklers that actuate work to control the fire through a combination of pre-wetting the combustibles surrounding the initial site of the fire and by producing cooling at ceiling level.

CSMA sprinklers are sprinkler heads the performance characteristics of which have been enhanced by the inclusion of orifice/deflector designs that produce larger water droplets with better penetration of a fire plume. While the first CSMA head was the larger-drop model, more recent CSMA sprinklers have been developed with larger k-factors. They are reckoned to have certain advantages over their density-area cousins.

The discharge criterion for CSMA is specified as a number of sprinklers operating at a minimum pressure rather than a minimum density and design area. ❖

Government construction procurement

From 2016, it has been announced, all Westminster government construction procurement contracts in excess of £5m will be required to comply with Building Information Modelling utilising guidance in BS 1192: 2007, *Collaborative production of architectural, engineering and construction information. Code of practice*. The 2007 Standard covers the management of the production, distribution and quality of construction information, including that generated by CAD systems; it is applicable to all parties involved in the preparation and use of information throughout the design, construction, operation and deconstruction throughout the project lifecycle and the supply chain. For more information visit [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/f ... n-Plan-Update-FINAL_0.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/f...n-Plan-Update-FINAL_0.pdf)

BS 5306: Part 2 exits left

The LPC Sprinkler Rules have distinguished ancestors. In 1885 John W. Wormald of the Mutual Fire Insurance Corporation wrote the world's first rules for automatic sprinkler installations. They were published in London by the Fire Offices' Committee in September 1888. In 1969 the FOC published the 29th edition of those rules, the responsibility for which passed to the Loss Prevention Council on its formation in 1985. With acknowledgement and reference to the FOC Rules, the British Standards Institution published a Code of Practice for sprinkler systems in 1952; this was enlarged and superseded by BS 5306: Part 2: 1979: *Code of Practice for fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises (sprinkler systems) 1979*, another document which referred extensively to the FOC Rules.

The *LPC Rules for automatic sprinkler installations* were published in 1990, included the text of BS 5306: Part 2: *Specification for sprinkler systems*: 1990, the BS being expanded by the inclusion of a set of Technical Bulletins (TBs) containing additional insurers' requirements, plus updates and amendments which could not be included in the BS. The LPC Rules were published as a looseleaf book, and since the arrival of BS EN 12845 the book has been based on the BS EN with an appropriate and growing collection of TBs.

But the latest news is that BS 5306: Part 2 has been withdrawn by BSI, so your copy of the 1990 LPC Rules, while not completely obsolete, might now be stowed in that box in the loft alongside the dark green plastic binder of the FOC 29th Rules. ❖

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The existing fire and rescue services in Scotland will be reformed as a single national service by April 2013, under the direction of Alasdair Hay, presently Acting CFO Tayside F&RS. The new single Scottish F&RS will have a workforce of more than 9000 firefighters and support staff and will have responsibility for the five million souls in 32 local authority areas previously under the care of the individual brigades in Scotland. The new service will operate from an interim headquarters at Perth Community Fire Station. ❖



Scottish Fire Statistics: fatalities' increase

Figures released in October revealed 57 people died in fires in Scotland in 2011/12 compared to 52 in 2010/11. Provisional statistics released by the Scottish Government also show there was a total of 32,204 fires in Scotland, down 17% on 2010-11.

Fire Statistics Scotland, 2011-12, published by Scotland's Chief Statistician, includes information on the number and location of fire incidents, fire casualties and special service incidents in Scotland.

It shows that fatal fire casualties have increased by 10% on the previous year and, of the 57 fire deaths, 51 occurred in dwelling fires and 47 of these were attributed to accidental dwelling fires.

The provisional number of non-fatal fire casualties in 2011-12 was 1398 and 86% of them (1209) occurred in dwelling fires. Of these 978 occurred in accidental dwelling fires.

In 2011-12 the most common source of ignition for accidental dwelling fires where a fatal casualty occurred was smokers' materials and matches which

accounted for 21 of 47 fatal casualties (45%). For non-fatal casualties, however, it was cooking appliances which accounted for 567 of 978 non-fatal casualties (58%). It was also revealed that in 2011-12, the number of accidental dwelling fires was at a ten-year low of 5116. In 17% of these fires (860), impairment due to suspected alcohol and/or drugs use was a contributory factor. In 34% of dwelling fires no smoke alarm was present (2079) and 13% had a smoke alarm present but did not operate (802). ❖



Streetside sprinkler evidence. This shiny fire service inlet was snapped on a high-rise building near Union Square, San Francisco.

BSI Sprinkler Committee appointments

BSI have announced that its sprinkler committee, FSH/18/2, is to be chaired by Dr Louise Jackman of BRE Global. Louise will be assisted by Steve Seaber who will assume the new role of deputy chair. Steve will also chair the Working Group which will conduct a full review of BS 9251.

FSH/18/2 was chaired for many years by BAFSA stalwart Leslie Heaviside MBE. Louise sits on a number of international standards committees and is the author of a

number of fire engineering reports and reviews. Steve is a former chief fire officer and latterly fire consultant who now represents Lubrizol on BAFSA Council; he was BAFSA's project manager on the Callow Mount sprinkler retrofit initiative.

BAFSA congratulates Louise and Steve on their appointments and expresses its good wishes for their success. ❖

Installers and technical surveillance audits

Most installer members of BAFSA will be familiar with the regime of technical surveillance which is part of the certification schemes of third-party certification bodies, but others may not be aware of the extent of reporting and supervision.

Consider the audit regime which exists for LPCB's Loss Prevention Standard 1048. Under the conditions of the LPS contractors are audited regularly for continued compliance with its requirements, installation standards and general standards of design/installation/testing/commissioning/servicing. The frequency and duration of the audits depend on the contractor's 'level' in the scheme and whether supervision is carried out by a Supervising Body or by the LPCB Supervising Service. Contractors are required to maintain a Log of their contracts from which the supervisor organisation will select the appropriate number of contracts to sample at each audit.

Each surveillance audit will investigate two types of compliance:

- ❖ compliance with relevant clauses of LPS 1048-1;
- ❖ compliance with technical standards and specifications applicable to individual contracts.
 - for level 1 to level 3 contractors, at each surveillance audit the LPCB will select for audit at least one completed sprinkler contract, examining it against the installation standard and design and layout drawings;

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LPCB is an independent third party approvals body offering certification of products and services for the sprinkler market.

- for level 4 contractors, at each audit the LPCB will select and inspect two completed sprinkler contracts, examining them against the installation standards and design and layout drawings;

If a contractor has not completed sufficient contracts for the LPCB to sample the designated minimum over the period of two successive surveillance audits, then its LPS 1048-1 approval may be withdrawn.

For a full account of the conditions under which such audits are performed, go to www.redbooklive.com, click on Certification Schemes, then Automatic Sprinkler Systems, and scroll down to 1048.❖

Fire Sector Federation

The Fire Sector Federation (FSF) stands as a not-for-profit non-government organisation which was established once the Government had reviewed the fire sector and made it clear that it no longer intended to control and direct the way fire and rescue services and cross-sector functions are managed, and instead expected the fire sector to take the lead in shaping policy. Originally launched as the Fire Sector Partnership the organisation has since agreed a constitution and relaunched as the FSF following a merger with FOBFO. Membership is open to any organisation able to demonstrate a legitimate interest in the built, natural, fire and rescue service or national resilience environments. [Funny – wasn't that what the Government was supposed to do?] For more information visit: www.firesectorfederation.co.uk. ❖

Fire sprinkler demo unit

On behalf of South Yorkshire F&RS, Roger Brayson has loaned their fire sprinkler demonstration unit to the 'fire industry'. Keith Rhodes at Nationwide Fire Sprinklers, Nottingham, is giving some tender loving (technical) care to the unit, and the result will be a demo unit available to anyone who wishes to borrow it to promote sprinklers at their own venue/event, for a truly token fee. Keith has been seeking financial support to enable some necessary modifications to be carried out (estimated at £2500 total cost), all donations gratefully received. So if you wish to borrow the unit, or make a contribution to its upkeep, or both, please contact Keith (keith.rhodes@nationwide-fire.co.uk).

Remote monitoring of sprinkler pumps/systems

Sam Flory/SPP Pumps

Sprinklers are sometimes likened to having a firefighter present in every room in a building, on the alert 24 hours a day. While an automatic sprinkler system is not a complicated piece of engineering it does incorporate many components and it is vital that each plays its part when this becomes necessary. Not least among the components is the pump (electrically or diesel powered), which must respond to the actuation of a sprinkler head. The technical Standards which apply to the operation of the system place considerable stress upon the importance of component monitoring and maintenance – so that there is no chance that the

resident 'firefighter' will not be ready to spring into action.

With regard to the constant availability of the fire pump, good engineering practice and regulatory bodies combine to ensure that maintenance regimes are adequate and are performed to timetable and that the sprinkler fire pump will operate correctly when it is needed. Weekly tests will check the pump's effectiveness for 30 minutes a week or 0.3% of the time. But what about the other 99.7%? Sam Flory of SPP Pumps here provides a general account of remote monitoring systems, based on his company's experience with their FireEye product.

Fire industry companies have worked on the development of remote monitoring systems designed specifically for application to fire pumps, the aim being to keep the person responsible for a sprinkler system aware of pump problems as soon as they are detected and otherwise to be able to check on the installation at will. Remote monitoring systems use short message service (SMS) text

alarm module technology and GPRS to provide continuous monitoring of a fire pump system's status, via easy online access from anywhere in the world.

A secure and reliable remote monitoring system will oversee the fire pump at all times and permit the user to monitor and manage pump systems from any web-enabled device (phone, computer, tablet) at any time of the day from anywhere in the world. In the event of an unexpected, pump-related problem, such a system will raise an alarm, which is sent as an SMS text message. In addition, mobile-phone-based monitoring systems will come with a range of options. Generally the input/output (I/O) board permits the user to connect sensors and switches to monitor such features as:

- ❖ pump house temperature
- ❖ trace heating
- ❖ fuel levels
- ❖ battery condition
- ❖ on-line/off-line status
- ❖ over-active jockey pumps.

It is, of course, vital that the network control and reporting of a supplier's remote monitoring service is itself secure and overseen. An additional advantage is the development of the history of activity of any system that is being monitored. It can help anticipate problems. For example, jockey pump starts can be monitored and

an alarm triggered if they exceed the level set by the customer. The activity record could reveal/identify a system leak and could save jockey pump burn-out and main fire pump set initiation, and thus reduce or prevent faults, costs, downtime and even loss of life.

Many protected sites want to keep a closer eye on pump house temperature and to be alerted if there is any chance the thermostat, radiator or any other pump house component may have failed to perform or be exhibiting problems. Alarm messages to mobile phones can be driven from digital or 4-20mA analogue devices that can be viewed via the monitoring system's home database, to show a pump system's status and searchable history, and the historic information could be used, for example, to provide details of events for insurance companies.

Remote monitoring systems of the type described are suitable for use in most types of premises. Even premises where the use of mobile phones is restricted, such as hospitals and other transmitter-free sites, can use the device.

Companies that provide a remote monitoring capability should provide a full hosting service with IT support for its users. The status of a monitored system could be logged to the web server hourly, or alerts sent as problems arise. Users

General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) is a non-voice service that permits mobile phones (or laptops or other portable devices) to be used for sending and receiving data over an Internet Protocol(IP)-based network, typically with downstream data rates up to 80 Kbps.

Short message service (SMS) is a well-established mobile phone technology which permits the despatch of a message of up to 160 characters maximum to up to five prioritised and pre-designated contacts/contact numbers.

will log in conventionally, with username plus password admittance, and the resulting access overview could enable users to keep checks on multiple sites/sprinkler installations. The service supplier will ensure that data is backed up and stored on a remote database and will not be lost if a pump house or equipment is damaged by catastrophic event such as fire or flood. This backup feature will be via a third-party host delivering virtually limitless database capacity for systems' histories with 99.99% uptime.

To sum up the range of benefits

which accrue from the presence of remote monitoring, they cover:

- ❖ improved system knowledge;
- ❖ assistance in identifying system leaks;
- ❖ pre-empting component failure;
- ❖ reduction of costs and downtime;
- ❖ enhanced system availability and reliability;
- ❖ raising the industry's maintenance standards.

There are many factors which could affect the performance of a sprinkler pump, and remote monitoring brings continuous

surveillance and increased peace of mind.

This short account describes the general principles and benefits of remote monitoring of sprinkler pumps and related components, which can serve a single location or could be particularly useful for a person responsible for sprinkler systems at a number of scattered sites. For more information and a technical briefing on an existing system, readers may like to contact the author, Sam Flory, at SPP Pumps ([Sam Flory@sppumps.com](mailto:Sam.Flory@sppumps.com)). ❖

CFO backs sprinklers in the home

CFOA's outgoing President, CFO Lee Howell of Devon & Somerset F&RS, is a believer in the benefits of sprinklers in the home, witness his message on the CFOA website.

'... the modern fire service does so much more than just put out fires. As a profession, we aim to reduce life loss wherever and whenever our skills, knowledge or resources can assist make society safer. We see first hand, and on an all too regular basis, the very real consequences of loss of life and injury and we feel we have a solution to prevent further deaths from occurring. It is for this reason that we are so keen on providing sprinklers in every new home if at all possible and certainly in those homes where people are most at risk due to lifestyle or circumstance. A number of colleagues have been pushing this agenda for many years and progress is being made, most notably in Wales where the Government have agreed to install sprinklers in all new homes. However, could we now start to see a move towards similar progress in England?

The recent decision by [Mr Osborne] the Buckinghamshire Coroner, investigating the deaths of a mother and daughter in a house fire, will recommend to Government ministers that unregistered houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) be criminalised, with harsh penalties for landlords. Mr Osborne also said "I will also be recommending that HMOs, new and existing, should have sprinkler systems installed, with a view to all new builds having them installed. Not to act would almost certainly result in future deaths occurring."

Mr Osborne has the full support of the Chief Fire Officers' Association in this respect. Let's hope we can overcome the barriers and reduce the number of people who die unnecessarily in their homes every year. We all have a part to play here, government, insurers, builders and citizens. If you would like to help us in our campaign, please contact us and we will keep you informed as to progress. Together we really can make a difference.' ❖

Sprinklers mandated for NSW care homes

A man faces trial in Australia on ten counts of murder related to the devastating fire at the Quakers Hill Nursing Home in November 2011. Following the grim outcome of the blaze, the New South Wales Government has passed new rules requiring automatic sprinkler systems to be installed in all care homes as a move to protect elderly and vulnerable care home residents. Minister for planning and infrastructure, Brad Hazzard MP, said: 'In response to the tragic Quakers Hill Nursing Home fire... the NSW Government established a working group of key industry stakeholders. The Government has... committed to decisive action to ensure our most vulnerable are protected. A survey of the state's aged care facilities, commissioned by the NSW Government earlier this year, found that around 55 per cent did not have fire sprinklers installed. This equates to nearly 600 aged care facilities, containing some 24,000 beds.'

Care homes in the state have three years to install sprinkler systems with a possible one-year extension in 'exceptional circumstances'. Similar rules are already in place in neighbouring states Victoria and Queensland, and nationally all care homes built since 2002 have required sprinklers to be installed under the Building Code of Australia. The new NSW regulations are set to apply from January 2013 and the Government will introduce amendments to planning regulations that will fast track applications for the retrofitting of sprinkler systems.

SPRINKLER STOPS

The difference between two fires in the UK in August 2012 was picked up by *Sprinkler Age* in the USA, in an account which was carried by BAFSA on its website.

Fire 1: Waste Recycling Plant, Oswestry, Shropshire

A sprinkler system at a household recycling plant on 13 August 2012 saved the building from being destroyed by fire. A blaze broke out at the Veolia recycling centre, which processes a very wide range of waste materials. Within minutes of the fire starting the sprinkler system was triggered and the fire suppressed. The premises were severely smoke logged, fire crews from three Shropshire F&RS stations attended, fire crews helped damp down the fire with the help of the plant's staff, and the building was ventilated and reoccupied three hours after sprinkler actuation. SM John Griffiths of Shropshire F&RS praised the company for installing the sprinkler system, '... it stopped the fire. It was a godsend. Without it we would have been here a long time.' A senior manager of Veolia said the system was fitted when the plant opened in 2009, 'To replace that building would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds.'

A major fire at a similar location in East London had a different outcome.

Fire 2: Waste Recycling Plant: Dagenham

On 12 August 2012 a fire, the biggest in London for many years, at a waste recycling centre resulted in the total destruction of a very large building (100m x 30m) and required 200 firefighters and 40 fire appliances to bring it under control. There were fears that smoke from the fire might affect the final day at the Olympic Stadium at Stratford East.

BAFSA Secretary General Stewart Kidd commented: 'The [Oswestry] good news story never made the national media... unlike the major fire at a similar location in Dagenham. The difference between the two fires was the fact that Veolia had the foresight to install a sprinkler system in their Shropshire plant. There have been more than 29 fires in recycling centres in the UK in 2012 so no one should be surprised when these happen. The presence of sprinklers meant that the Shropshire plant was back in business in less than half a day while the Essex plant will be out of business for weeks.'

Sprinkler Age said that the contrasting outcomes demonstrate that, like the US media, news media in the UK do not give much coverage to fires that didn't become large because sprinklers contained them.

Meanwhile, there was plenty more evidence about the effectiveness of sprinklers in the Summer and Autumn of 2102. Please read on... ❖

Theatre, St Helens, Merseyside

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service reported that at 08:32hr on Thursday, 5 July 2012, the sprinkler system in the Theatre Royal in St Helens operated to control a fire in the building. (The sprinkler system is believed to date from the 1950s.) The sprinklers were so effective that one head was enough to ensure the fire caused minimal damage to the room of origin.

The building was unoccupied at the time and although 25 fire service personnel were mobilised they were principally engaged in damping down and ventilation at the premises. Merseyside F&RS recorded 5% slight fire damage, 5% slight heat damage and moderate smoke damage to the room in which the fire started. They estimated that it took only 3 minutes for the fire to be controlled and crews had left the scene by 10:20hr that morning. Rehearsals for a school talent show, scheduled for later that day, were able to go ahead despite the fire.

Hotel, Sheffield

Limited information has been received about reports that a fire in a cleaner's cupboard of a Sheffield city centre hotel on the night of 14/15 July was extinguished by the operation of a single sprinkler head. The system was reinstated almost immediately and was in full working order three hours after actuation. The fire service were not called and no further information is available.

Supermarket, Burscough, Lancashire

A fire occurred at about 14:30hr on Thursday, 12 July 2012, in a 5m x 3m storage area at a Tesco supermarket in Burscough, Lancashire. The fire involved stacked items in a plastic tray, similar to those used for storing bread. The compartment of origin contained

around 100 plastic trays and so was 75% full. There were two sprinkler heads in the space, just one of which activated to control the fire. Two responding appliances found the fire was virtually extinguished, although the area was heavily smoke logged. Once trays were removed the residual fire was easily extinguished. Without the intervention of the sprinkler system, the £11,500 worth of stock in the room, mostly clothing and stationery, would have been destroyed. The fire could also have developed into a major incident compromising other areas of the store. The assistant manager confirmed that the fire was confined to one tray and, because the other stock was in sealed bags, it remained undamaged by heat and smoke. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Large Retail, Bournemouth, Dorset

At 00:20hr on 30 July 2012, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service was called to a property fire in a large superstore, St Pauls Road, Bournemouth. Fire crews from Springbourne and Christchurch (x2) attended this incident within five minutes. The crews quickly established that the building's automatic fire sprinkler system had extinguished the fire. The fire was believed to have been caused by a malfunction in a portable air conditioning and fan unit and the only damage caused was to a waste paper basket.

Large Retail Store, Wolverhampton

West Midlands Fire Service reported that shortly after 16:10hr on Tuesday, 4 September 2012 a small fire, involving a CCTV monitor, occurred at the BHS store in Wolverhampton city centre. The store was evacuated safely and the fire, in a second floor office in the three storey 50m x30m premises, was controlled by the sprinkler system. Two firefighters in breathing apparatus were committed with one jet to damp

down and the stop message was sent at 16:57hr. Fire service personnel then assisted the store's own staff to carry out the tidy up using vacuum suction equipment. The sprinkler system was reinstated the same day and the shop reopened the following day.

Boatbuilder, Plymouth

A fire in premises occupied by Princess Yachts, a builder of luxury yachts, was suppressed by a sprinkler system at 17:00hr on Saturday, 23 September 2012. Five fire appliances responded and Station manager Wayne Rawlins, who was in charge of the attendance, said: 'When we turned up the gates were locked and we could see smoke coming from the whole length of the building.' He said crews tackled a fire on the ground floor before making their way to the first mezzanine floor where the main fire was. 'The sprinklers in the building had activated by the time we got there . . . we could have easily lost the whole building if they hadn't had them installed. They definitely saved the building and its contents.'

Retailer, Newbury, Berkshire

At about 08:00hr on 24 September 2012 a fire broke out in the storeroom of H&M, a major clothing retailer in Newbury's Parkway shopping centre. Six sprinkler heads actuated in the storeroom (about 6m x 18m) bringing the fire under control and confining the damage to the room of origin. It is thought that a fault in a heater set light to racks of clothing. Alerted by the fire detection system store staff attempted to fight the fire with extinguishers but were driven back by smoke. Shortly afterwards the sprinkler system activated and when the fire service arrived the fire was under control. Given the fire loading in the storeroom there is no doubt that the fire would have been very severe and far more difficult to tackle had sprinklers not been fitted.

Factory, Keighley, West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire F&RS reported that at about 20:45hr on Saturday, 13 October there was a successful sprinkler activation at a factory in Keighley. The F&RS was notified of the fire through the company which monitors the sprinkler system. The fire was contained to a small area of storage racking in the fully sprinklered 100m x 30m factory, which employs 30 people. Fire service personnel made entry to the site and ascertained that one sprinkler head had extinguished the fire before they isolated the system. Disruption to the factory was minimal and work continued as normal on the following Monday.

Underground Car Park, Gateshead

At approximately 04:55hr on Tuesday, 23 October 2012 there was a sprinkler activation in an underground car park beneath a large 4 star hotel in Gateshead. Tyne and Wear F&RS were notified and on arrival found that two cars had been well ablaze. The sprinklers suppressed the fire – four sprinkler heads had actuated - so that it was contained, with no effect to the structure of the building and no further fire spread to adjacent cars. The crews had also to deal with a pool fuel fire.

The fire was on the 1st level basement car park; crews had difficulties locating the seat of the fire due to smoke-logging in the car park level. When F&RS resources were in place the sprinkler system was isolated to allow crews to gain access to the engine compartments and fully extinguish the fire.

The hotel put its evacuation procedures into place, guests being held in the lobby area until the 'stop' was put in by the crews. Disruption to the hotel was minimal and the cause of the fire is under investigation. ❖

BAFSA MEMBER NEWS

BAFSA's 12th Annual Golf Day 17 October 2012



Congratulations and thanks are due to Adam Moroney, Pegler Yorkshire who has taken over the responsibility for organising BAFSA's annual golf day from Vice Chairman Martin Hartley. Adam reports on this year's event, held at the De Vere Mottram Hall Golf and Country Club.

The singles Stableford 4 ball golf competition and team trophy was competed for by 7 teams (of 4), a good turnout given that the round was planned this late in the year. An earlier planned date washed out but the participating teams were very keen to get another day off work and play a few weeks later.

Weather conditions looked very poor again as we arrived at the course but amazingly turned sunny with a light breeze as we hit the tee time.

The prestigious BAFSA **team trophy** was competed for by: Hall Fire Protection, Armstrong Priestley Ltd, Shawston, Victaulic, Booles, Grundfos Pumps and Pegler Yorkshire.

Scores were good again this year as in previous years with prizes presented by myself in a very low key awards ceremony. Apologies for it being less than prestigious, but it was my first time doing this.

The **team trophy was won by Armstrong Priestley with an excellent score of 85** points, with Victaulic in second place.

Dave O'Kane, Hall Fire, won the **singles competition**. Dave tied on 39 points scored with Andy

Cable (Armstrong Priestley), and this too had to be decided on count back leaving Andy in second place.

'Longest drive' on the 18th was won by Dave Kinnersley, Argus Fire/Grundfos, with a massive drive on the last hole.

'Nearest the Pin' was won by Stuart Brainsby on the 3rd hole which was a tough hole to get close to the pin. If my memory serves me right Stuart's shot landed him about 2m from the pin.

Unfortunately I can't supply the full results list as being an amateur at this, I thought it would be good to give teams back their score cards. With that being said it was a fantastic day and we appreciate the turnout. Thanks particularly to the prize sponsors for their kind support.

I have made a provisional booking for the 13th Annual BAFSA Golf Day at Mottram Hall again next year for 26 June 2013. It is a good venue, fairly centrally located in the country, well priced, and serves a great Full English buffet breakfast. If anyone has any comments on the venue or any suggestions for improvements on the day please drop me a line and let me know.

As a side note . . . Martin, thanks for your support and help throughout the time when I have required it. Also Ross Crighton was kind enough to take some pics of each of the teams prior to teeing off at the first so once received I shall send those out. ❖

Thanks again for everyone's support.

Adam Moroney

BAFSA MEMBER NEWS

Reporting sprinkler stops

Steve Mills, formerly of West Midlands Fire Service, has been enlisted by BAFSA to help develop the existing good relations between the Association and the UK's fire and rescue services. Among Steve's tasks as Fire Service Coordinator will be liaison with F&RSs to encourage them to report fire stops. BAFSA members are also encouraged to report sprinkler stops by completing and returning to Steve Mills a sprinkler activation report form. A copy of a form, based on an original version emanating from CFOA's Automatic Water Suppression Systems Group, is available in the Members' Resources area of the BAFSA website. The form can also be found on the National Fire Sprinkler Network website, at www.nfsn.co.uk/downloads.php. ❖



BAFSA jackets



As part of its promotional activity BAFSA arranged the production of a limited number of BAFSA jackets, showerproof, with hoods, carrying the BAFSA logo and, on the back, the message 'Sprinklers Save Lives' and BAFSA's web address. There are absolutely no prizes for guessing the identity of the model in the picture!

BAFSA is happy to receive suggestions for topics to be covered in future issues. Please make contact via info@bafsa.org.uk.

BAFSA Events 2012/2013/2014

Date	Event	Venue
2012		
7 November	Marketing	TATA Steel, Corby
7 November (tbc)	R&D Group	Viking, Tipton
14 November (09:30hr)	Council	Marriott, Leicester
14 November (14:00hr)	2012 AGM	Marriott, Leicester
14 November (19:30hr)	2012 Annual Dinner	Marriott, Leicester
15 November	Fire Sprinkler 2012 Conference & Exhibition	Marriott, Leicester
28 November	Technical Committee	tbc
2013		
	(Council/Marketing dates are provisional)	All venues to be discussed and agreed
9 January	Marketing	Victaulic, Stevenage
17 January	Council	South Yorks F&RS, Sheffield
13 March	Marketing	Reliable, East Grinstead
20 March	Council	Armstrong Priestley, Leeds
15 May (09:30hr)	Council	Derby (tbc)
15 May (13:30hr)	Marketing	Derby (tbc)
16 May	Members' Spring meeting and LA seminar	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue HQ
26 June	Golf Day	Mottram Hall, Cheshire
10 July	Marketing	Rapidrop, Peterborough
17 July	Council	Hampshire/Surrey tbc
11 September (09:30hr)	Council	Hampshire/Surrey tbc
11 September (13:30hr)	Marketing	Hampshire/Surrey tbc
12 September	Autumn Members' Meeting and LA seminar	Hampshire/Surrey tbc
6 November	Marketing	TATA, Corby
14 November	Council	Marriott, Worsley Park
14 November (14:00hr)	2013 AGM	Marriott, Worsley Park
14 November (19:30hr)	2013 Annual Dinner	Marriott, Worsley Park
2014		
20-21 May (tbc)	Fire Sprinkler International 2014	Grange Tower Bridge Hotel, London
13 November	Council	Bristol Royal, Marriott
13 November (1400hr)	2014 AGM	Bristol Royal, Marriott
13 November (1930hr)	40th Anniversary Gala Dinner	Bristol Royal, Marriott

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