

## June 2022 Report

June marked the end of the EFSN financial year. Thanks to the conference in London I expect that once the accounts are audited, they will show a surplus. The conference itself was a great success, with the same number of attendees as in Munich in 2016. Meanwhile we are preparing for our next event, on 28<sup>th</sup> September in Rome. Towards the end of June the Belgian government published a long-awaited revision to its fire safety building code, which among other things introduced requirements for sprinklers in large underground car parks. In France a government report into the OVHcloud data centre fire in Strasbourg recommended that these facilities be protected with sprinklers. In The Netherlands we may have found another trade-off with sprinklers, while in Spain we have gained the support of another non-sprinkler organisation for our campaigns.

### **Fire Sprinkler International 2022**

Fire Sprinkler International was well attended, with over 290 delegates and over 180 dinner guests. Delegates were glad to meet once more in person and said they found the face-to-face contacts valuable. There was a focussed, interesting exhibition and exhibitors were able to talk to influential people about their innovations. As always the networking evening in the exhibition area went very well. I would like to thank all the exhibitors, without whose support we could not have staged such a large event.

We also received compliments about the programme, which besides the usual sessions on standards also covered storage protection, foam systems, water mist and its application, sprinkler applications, residential systems, cultural heritage protection, environmental considerations, corrosion, long-term performance, testing, piping innovations and performance-based design. For the first time we also had two panel sessions, which were well-received. The conference was opened by Lord Berkeley, who gave an insight into renovations in the Houses of Parliament. He was followed by Paul Jennings of London Fire Brigade, who told us what his organisation is doing to see sprinklers more widely used. In all there were 44 presentations and two panels.

Many people complimented us on the organisation of the conference and I would like to thank Wendy and her team for their hard work which made the event such a success.

### **Fire Sprinkler Europe – Rome**

On 28 September we will host a one-day conference and exhibition in Rome. We are working with the Italian Chapter of the SFPE to host this event, which will be held at the sprinklered Hotel Cavalieri. This will be a bilingual event and we hope it will serve to launch a future sprinkler campaign in Italy. The [web site](#) is up, with the programme, accommodation and how to register. We have received the first delegate registrations. If you are interested in exhibiting please contact [wendyotway@gmail.com](mailto:wendyotway@gmail.com).

## **Belgium**

On 23 June the Belgian government published a royal decree introducing requirements for sprinklers to be fitted in large underground car parks. The government also published an update to the fire code. Among other changes, it clarifies that if sprinklers are fitted:

- False ceilings and smoke shafts in escape routes do not need 30 minutes fire resistance
- Walls separating sales units in shopping centres need not have 30 minutes fire resistance
- If the water network cannot adequately supply hydrants in low-rise buildings, a 50 m<sup>3</sup> tank for firefighting is not needed
- Fire resistance requirements for facades do not apply
- A lobby is not required for the rubbish room in a medium-height building
- A stair pressurisation system is not required in high-rise buildings
- If the car park sub-compartment is smaller than 1250 m<sup>2</sup> and no more than 7 m below ground, the hazard class for EN 12845 systems may be reduced to OH1 and for NFPA 13 systems to LH.

At the end of June the BFSN held its Annual General Meeting.

## **France**

Youcef wrote an article about FSI 2022 for Face au Risque. A [government report](#) has been published into the 2021 fire at the OVHcloud data centre in Strasbourg, which knocked out almost half a million domains, including several belonging to the government. The report noted that no sprinklers were fitted at the site and recommended their use. Other data centre operators in France have reached the same conclusion.

## **Germany**

I attended the Feuertrutz conference and exhibition in Nuremberg. It was well-attended and the conference programme covered many building fire safety topics. There was a focus on fire protection of existing buildings, it now being widely recognised that it is extremely wasteful of energy and materials to replace buildings; it is far better to refurbish them. Existing buildings often do not comply with fire safety requirements for new buildings, with structural fire resistance being uncertain, staircases too narrow and fire stopping often missing. Sprinklers may compensate for some of these issues. We also heard that in parts of Germany the fire brigade is regarded as the second escape route. Sprinklers would provide greater safety.

## **Italy**

The International Fire Suppression Alliance has approved our grant request for co-funding of someone to coordinate sprinkler campaigns in Italy. The funding is conditional on us finding some Italian funding.

## **Netherlands**

I took part in a meeting organised by John to discuss a research proposal on the use of sprinklers to comply with the Dutch standard on smoke control, NEN 6075. This standard is called up under Dutch building regulations and requires a package of measures if the room overpressure due to a fire could exceed 10 Pa. Sprinklers cool smoke and reduce the rate of smoke production. The thinking is that in combination with running the normal room ventilation at

higher power they could keep the room pressure below 10 Pa. The researchers will first conduct a literature review, so please let me know if you are aware of any work in this area.

### **Poland**

Piotr has researched the background to the existing Polish building fire safety regulations and written a report. Work continues on the translation of EN 12845 and the accreditation scheme for sprinkler system installers.

### **Spain**

Alfredo gave a presentation on EN 16925 and the Spanish national annex at a seminar organised by CEPREVEN. [APPUNLE](#), the Spanish warehouse association, has become a public supporter of our efforts in Spain and its logo is now on our [web site](#). I responded to a question about façade gardens and sprinklers from the regulator for the Madrid region and Alfredo provided him with information about EN 16925 and the Spanish annex. A new fire engineering licensing [ordinance](#) has taken effect in the Madrid region. Alfredo also spoke about the changes to sprinkler standards to the national Spanish regulator at a Tecnifuego event.

A draft of a new edition of the industrial building fire code is expected in September. A draft revision to the regulation on fire protection system products may come out at the same time.

The next Spanish stakeholder meeting will be held on 13 July in Madrid.

### **UK**

I participated in a BSA meeting where we reviewed current regulatory work and the BSA's promotional activities. I also participated in a comment review meeting for BS 9991.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June we reached the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower disaster. The government has funded 10 pieces of research, none of which has yet been published. This research is intended to inform a review of English regulatory guidance but the process is very slow.

### **CEN TC/191/WG5**

We received over 4,000 comments on prEN 12845-1. The work item is about to expire and while we could request a nine-month extension, WG5 members felt that would not be enough time to address all the comments and prepare a final draft for formal vote. Instead the work item will be allowed to expire and we will work on the comments, requesting a new work item once we are close to addressing them all. Meanwhile Task Group 2 met and began to address the comments. To accelerate the process some ground rules were agreed, for example that comments without proposals would be rejected unless they identify a clear error. Extra meetings have been scheduled to give us more time to address the comments.

prEN 17451, the pump set standard, has completed the drafting process and has been sent to WG5 to seek agreement for it to be sent to CEN to circulate for enquiry.

A new work item proposal has been sent to CEN for prEN 12259-15, a component standard for large k-factor, extended coverage and CMSA sprinklers.

## **CEN TC/191/WG10**

Preliminary work items have been opened for fire test protocol standards for:

- prEN 14972-4 – non-storage occupancies
- prEN 14972-5 – car parks
- prEN 14972-12 – deep fat fryers

## **Next Steps**

- 1) Participate in a meeting in Madrid of our Spanish stakeholders. While there, meet others.
- 2) Continue preparations for Fire Sprinkler Europe – Rome.
- 3) Lead a meeting between manufacturers and consultants to discuss quality issues with water mist in the UK.
- 4) Draft a position paper on sprinkler protection of electric vehicles.
- 5) Participate in BS 9991 comment review meetings.