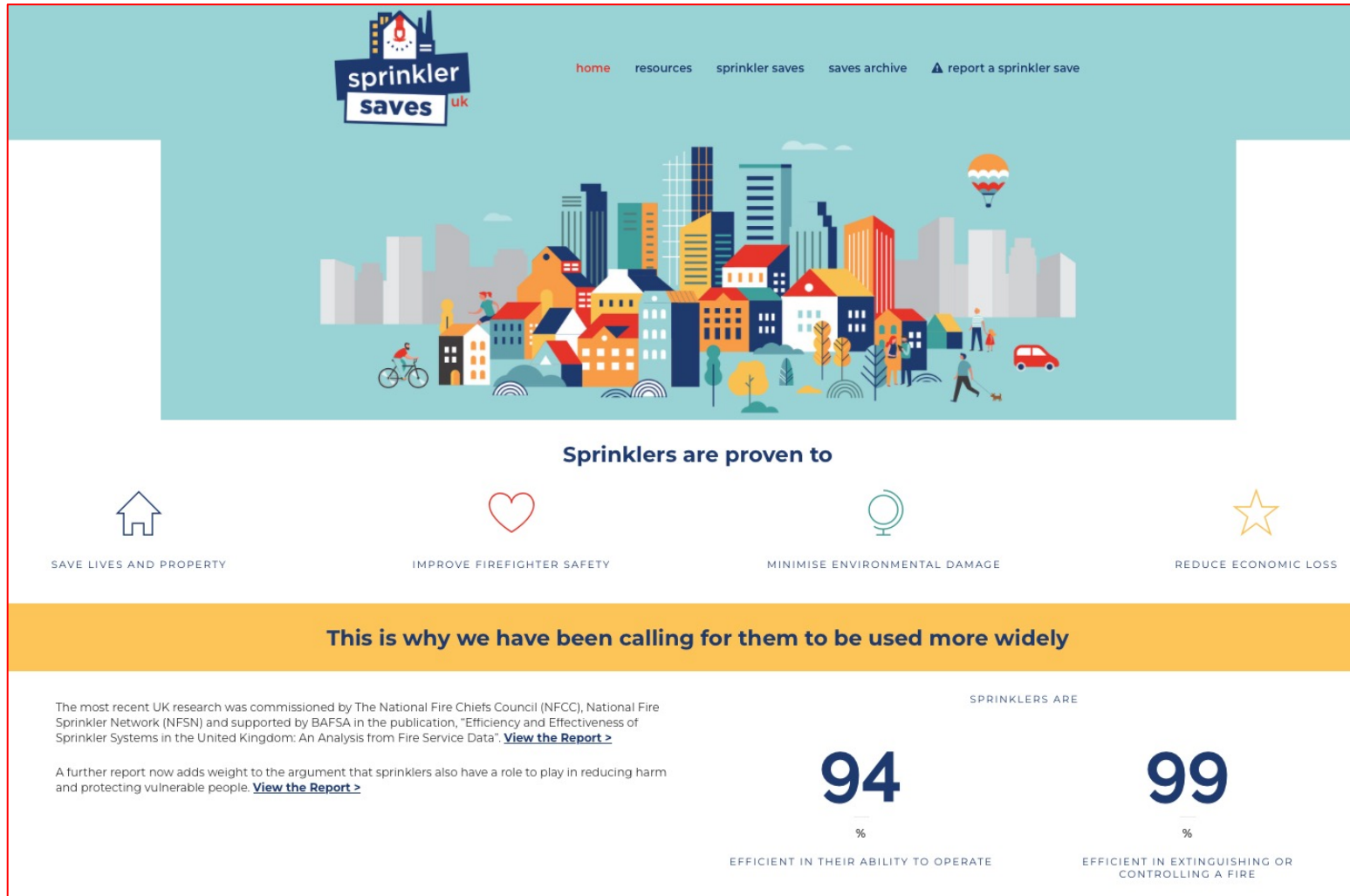


# NFSN SPRINKLER SAVES UK SPRING UPDATE





# Agenda

- When are sprinklers required within tall buildings?
- Sprinklers in student accommodation
- Promoting sprinkler saves uk, partnership working
- Sprinkler save case studies
- Sprinkler saves update



# Sprinkler Saves UK

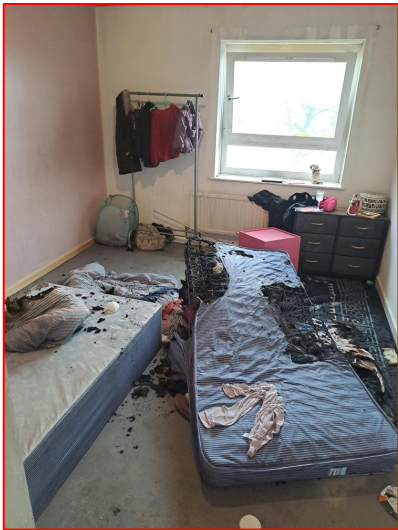
Hosted and coordinated



Supported by



Sprinkler saves tell a story they bring the incident to life



Credit SYFRS

- Each Sprinkler Save captured provides a real-world example of the power of fire sprinklers.
- These are real and tangible examples.
- Where sprinklers have contained/controlled or in some cases extinguished a fire.
- Minimising property damage, protecting the environment, the lives of firefighters and members of the public.

# When Are Sprinklers Required Within Tall buildings?

- ▶ 2019 Government consultation “Sprinklers and Other Fire Safety Measures in New High-Rise Block of Flats.”
- ▶ Proposing a reduction of the 30m height threshold for the installation fire sprinklers in residential block of flats to 18m and above.
- ▶ Responses from the fire sector, identified the importance of fitting sprinklers in all buildings where people sleep, regardless of overall building height.

## Outcome

- ▶ Threshold height for the fitting of sprinklers reduced
- ▶ To blocks of flats with a top storey more than 11m above ground level.
- ▶ ADB Volume 1 Purpose group 1a Residential block of flats only the dwelling.
- **We welcome the Governments decision however, it is disappointing the view of the fire sector was overlooked allowing sprinklers to be fitted to a wider range of purpose groups irrespective of height, and all those undergoing major or significant refurbishment, extension, or alteration.**
- **Lost opportunity?**

  
Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Government Response: Sprinklers and Other  
Fire Safety Measures in New High-Rise  
Blocks of Flats

May 2020  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

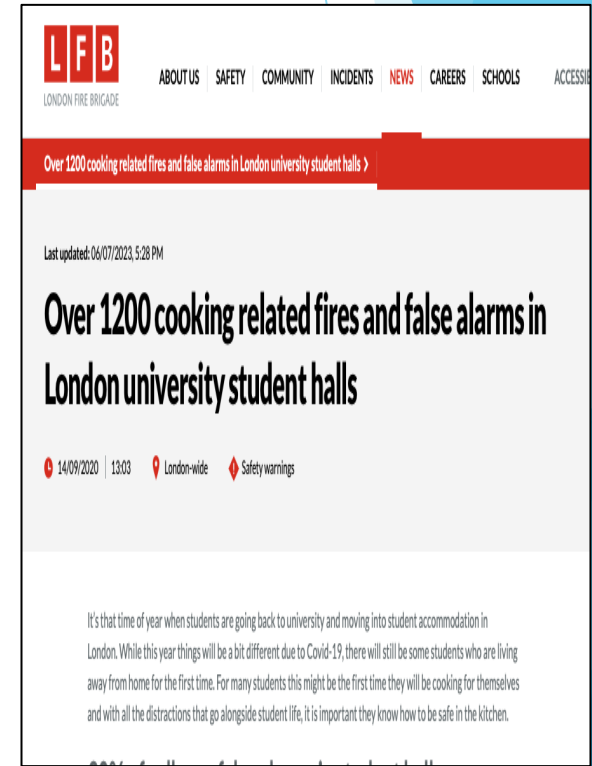
- The mandatory installation of sprinklers in new built care homes from March 2025 is a great win
- But will it take another cube fire which was a near miss or another Grenfell Fire for the government to act
- Making the installation of sprinklers mandatory for Student accommodation and buildings housing vulnerable residents such as hospitals, sheltered accommodation.



November 2019



January 2008- February 2009



September 2020

# For Change, We Need The Evidence

- ▶ Influencing policy makers making the fitting of sprinklers in all buildings where people sleep, regardless of overall building height.
- ▶ One tool in our locker to achieve this goal reinforcing the benefits of sprinklers by reporting real life tangible incidents where sprinklers have had a significant role.
- ▶ Reducing the impact of fire on people, property, firefighters and the environment.
- ▶ We need your support to achieve this vision.
- ▶ If you hear of a save report it.





# Nottinghamshire Student Accommodation Saves

- ▶ 4 sprinkler saves reported by Nottinghamshire FRS within 12 months
- ▶ 3 involving student accommodation, 2 of which were cooking related fires
- ▶ On each occasion the fire was contained/controlled or extinguished by the activation of the sprinkler system

Providing further evidence that the operation of a correctly designed and installed residential life safety sprinkler system installed, maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards reduces the rate of production of heat and smoke, allowing more time for the occupants to escape or be rescued



**sprinkler saves UK**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**See a Sprinkler Save - then report it!**

To make sprinklers the norm and not the exception - we need the evidence. BAFAA Sprinkler Ambassador Nick Colehill is calling on all UK Fire & Rescue Service heads to encourage their operational and fire protection staff to report successful sprinkler activations via BAFAA's Sprinkler Saves website.

"Encouraging the FRS to promote, collect, report sprinkler activations to Sprinkler Saves UK will help to create a central and comprehensive record of fire incidents where sprinklers played their role in containing, controlling or extinguishing a fire," says Nick.

All sprinkler activations can be reported by FRS using the Sprinkler Saves sprinkler activation reporting form at [www.sprinklersaves.co.uk](http://www.sprinklersaves.co.uk). Where available, approved images would be welcome to support any save.

**Nottinghamshire tall building student accommodation save**

Fire crews were mobilised to reports of a confirmed fire within a six-storey purpose-built student accommodation block in Nottinghamshire.

On arrival the officer in charge established that one concealed sprinkler head within a cluster flat bedroom had actuated containing/controlling the fire to the room of origin. This allowed the student, who was unaware of the fire until the bedroom door containing the fire was opened, to get to a place of safety.

Minimal firefighting was required by NFRS to extinguish the fire with only superficial fire, heat, and smoke damage sustained within the room of origin. It was established the cause of the fire was due to embers from a stubbed out lit incense candle that had blown on to clothes in a washing basket and caught light.

This incident provides further evidence that the operation of a correctly designed and installed residential sprinkler system installed, maintained in accordance with the appropriate codes and standards reduces the rate of production of heat and smoke, allowing more time for the occupants to escape to safety or be rescued.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please contact me, Nick Colehill, BAFAA sprinkler ambassador at: [nick.colehill@bafaa.org.uk](mailto:nick.colehill@bafaa.org.uk)

BAFAA Ambassadors are the Sprinkler Ambassadors  
**bafaa**

# Nottinghamshire Student Accommodation Activation

- Student accommodation Kitchen block fire involving an electric air fryer
- Extinguished by the activation of two sprinkler heads
- The occupants self-evacuated with one casualty treated on the scene for smoke inhalation.
- The intensity of the heat from the fire activated a further sprinkler head disengaging the cover plate only.
- Fire damage was contained to the air fryer, kitchen worktop, cupboard area.
- Sprinkler system prevented the fire from spreading from the compartment of origin.



Images credit Nationwide Sprinklers Ltd



# Pictures Speak A Thousand Words

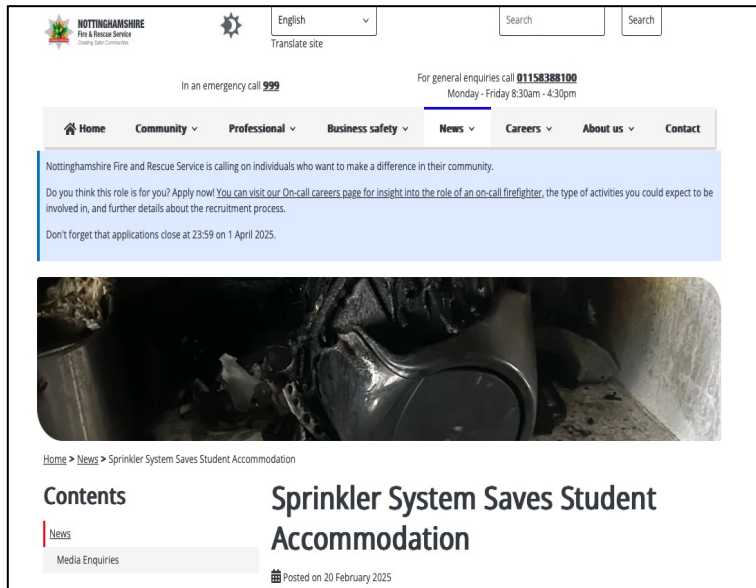
When comparing this incident to a similar air fryer kitchen fire in Weymouth in December 2024 where the premises was not sprinkler protected, the difference is startling, the kitchen was severely damaged by the fire.



image credit Nationwide Fire Sprinklers Ltd



Image credit Dorset and Wiltshire FRS



Nottinghamshire FRS, have Introduced an internal best practice protocol to raise awareness of Sprinkler Saves both externally and within the service.

- Promoting sprinkler saves, publications, updates
- Educating, promoting awareness of incidents where sprinklers were present having an impact, identifying debrief considerations for best practice.
- Informing, encouraging service communication department to promote sprinkler save reviews via social media and internal communications.



The outcome of which will support our efforts to provide evidence for the case of sprinklers, aiming to influence policy decision-makers to adopt sprinklers as standard practice increasing their use across the built environment of the UK



# Wales Primary School Fire

## The Incident

- ▶ Classroom storeroom fire
- ▶ Malicious act
- ▶ Contained, controlled and extinguished within the room of origin by the activation of 1 sprinkler head
- ▶ No further firefighting media was required by the fire service on arrival
- ▶ 5% of a classroom storeroom was damaged by fire
- ▶ No injuries reported.

## Business Continuity

- ▶ The school was closed following the fire, opening fully the following day with only minimal fire damage sustained to the classroom storeroom, with no impact on the student's education.
- ▶ MP communication drafted encouraging him to support Labour Peer Lord John Hendy Kc call to review the former governments proposed new policy on BB100
- ▶ Credit to Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service for reporting the incident

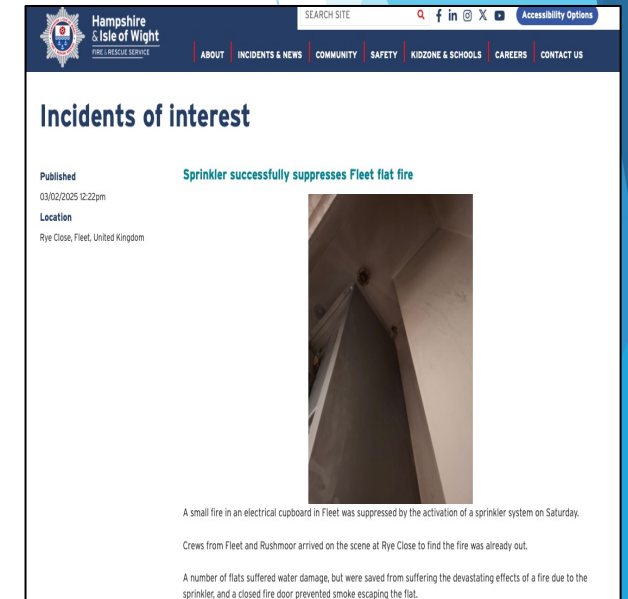


# Fleet Tall Building Residential Electrical Cupboard Sprinkler Activation

- A small fire within a flat electrical cupboard
- Contained, controlled and extinguished by the provision of one concealed sprinkler head located within the cupboard before the arrival of the emergency services
- The electrical cupboard fire door was in the closed position at the time of the incident which prevented the fire from spreading from the compartment of origin compromising the means of escape.



Credit images Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service



Credit to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service for reporting the incident



# New Providence Wharf Incident May 2021

- 20 pump fire.
- Seat of ignition within an 8-floor dwelling electrical cupboard.
- Fire spread externally, effecting balconies on the 8, 9 and tenth floors of a 19-storey building.
- 35 rescues, 22 using escape hoods, and a further 67 self evacuated.
- Flat of origin 80% damaged by fire.
- Internal communal corridors on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor damaged by smoke with fire and heat damage.
- Due to the failure of the AOV.
- Source of ignition electrical consumer unit.

**Sprinklers Were Not Fitted**

# OBSERVATIONS SPRINKLER SAVES 2024/25

- 95 x incidents reported where sprinklers were present, having an impact of which:-
  - 69 x Sprinkler activations.
  - 26 x occasions the sprinkler system did not operate.
- **Efficiency/effectiveness**
  - 50 x activations extinguished the fire.
  - 17 x activations contained/controlled the fire.
  - 2 x activations did not contain/control the fire.
- **Occupancy**
  - 29 x Purpose built block of flats.
  - 7 x Houses single occupancy.
  - 7 x Recycling plants.
  - 4 x Student accommodation/Sheltered housing.
- ▶ Over half of the incidents reported by LFB with 50. (IRS data)
- ▶ Incidents of a sensitive are nature not reported, prisons, fire related fatalities, incidents of a sensitive nature.
- ▶ Figures, data can not be confirmed until publication of the primary fire compound data for 2024/2025.

# Specialised Housing Fire Related Fatality

- ▶ Bedroom fire involving smoking materials.
- ▶ 1x sidewall sprinkler head activated, extinguishing the fire.
- ▶ The tenant who was over the age of 65 had a long history of vulnerability, pre-existing impairments.
- ▶ Factor in both the starting of the fire and the outcome and their ability to respond.
- ▶ The tenant was directly involved in the fire with either their clothing or bedding
- ▶ From the direct result of injuries caused by the fire, the casualty subsequently died following the fire at the hospital

# It should be remembered

- ▶ The installation of a life safety AFSS 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.
- ▶ It is important to identify and understand the profile and circumstances of fires which result in a fire related fatality where AFSS are present allowing us to understand the circumstances of the fire, parameters of the AFSS in the context it was installed.



# Sprinkler Saves Spring Update No 7

## Round up of news and activities from Sprinkler Saves Uk

- Latest BAFSA news/updates.
- Water mist and sprinkler system activations 2022/23.
- Update sprinkler saves review 2024/25.
- Selection of Sprinkler Save case studies.

### British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA) welcomes new guidance for sprinklers in all new care homes in England

BAFSA hopes that the requirement for sprinklers in all new care homes, irrespective of building height, from 2 March 2025 will be a launch pad encouraging the Government to support the fitting of sprinkler systems in other sleeping accommodation, such as specialised housing, to prevent the spread of fire and protect some of our most vulnerable members of our communities.

The benefits of sprinklers within care homes was clearly demonstrated following a Kent residential care home sprinkler activation which successfully contained, controlled and extinguished a fire involving upholstered furniture. The sprinkler system maintained the care homes' continuity of providing care to the residents with minimal disruption.

Read more about this save here [Click here to open link](#)



BAFSA



SPRINKLER SAVES  
UPDATE NO 6: WINTER 2024

Your quarterly digest of sprinkler activations from up and down the UK reported to the Sprinkler Saves UK website and compiled by BAFSA's Sprinkler Ambassador Nick Coleshill

### Brighton assisted living complex save

This is the third reported dwelling fire within this complex in Brighton in the space of 29 months. On each occasion the fire was contained, controlled or extinguished with limited fire damage reported and no injuries reported.

The fire broke out due to a heat pad coming into contact with bedding contaminated with emollient. One concealed residential sprinkler head was activated inside the bedroom and the fire was successfully extinguished.

This demonstrates again that the operation of a correctly designed residential sprinkler system, installed to the appropriate codes and standards, reduces the rate of production of heat and smoke, allowing more

time for occupants to escape to safety or be rescued.

Station Manager Louisa Curtis of East Sussex Fire Rescue Service, Brighton & Hove Fire Safety Team Manager, said:

"ESFRS have consistently promoted for the installation of sprinklers, it is a simple, cost-effective way to save more lives and reduce the risks to firefighters. Fire sprinklers are the only active fire system which detects a fire, suppresses a fire and raises the alarm. This incident demonstrates sprinklers provide protection from fire damage but most importantly provide time for people to safely self-evacuate if there is a fire."

Read more about this Sprinkler Save here: [Click here to open](#)



Image Credit East Sussex Fire Rescue Service



WE NEED YOUR HELP

### Fire & Rescue Service funded sprinkler saves case study request

Following the publication of our third *Sprinkler Saves Review 2023/2024*, reinforcing the vital role sprinklers play in fire safety, we are reaching out for the support of our Fire & Rescue Service colleagues to share case studies which could be promoted in our next review (2024/2025) identifying where a fire has been successfully contained/controlled or in some cases extinguished by the premises sprinkler system funded from an FRS match funding sprinkler project.

For example, London Fire Brigade provided £84,250 allocated from a fire prevention grant received from The Government in 2014 to the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for the installation of a residential sprinkler installation within an extra care housing unit.

Seven years after this installation, the premises had a fire within a dwelling involving smoking materials which activated the sprinkler system which was able to contain and control the fire with fire damage limited to the compartment of origin.

The decision taken by the LFB in 2014 to launch the match funding sprinkler campaign should be applauded. Without this initiative the outcome of this incident could have been so much different.

# Sprinkler Saves Review 2024-2025

➤ Publication date May 2025  
Focusing on

- 12 individual key sprinkler activations.
- 1 key sprinkler save focusing on trends, legislation
- Interrogating primary fire incident data for the period 2022-2023 where sprinklers were present having an impact.

Demonstrating how and why sprinklers make a difference to people, property and the environment when it comes to fire safety.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO PROMOTE THIS PUBLICATION WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATIONS, EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS TO DRIVE CHANGE



# Promoting Sprinkler Saves Uk, Partnership Working

## Objective of the NFSN?

- ▶ Influence policy makers to see greater inclusion of sprinkler systems emulating the policies in the devolved parliaments and assemblies
- ▶ Educate and inform others to the benefits of sprinklers and address the myths
- ▶ Outcome, driving change for the installation of sprinklers as part of a package of fire safety measures

**As membership can we do more to achieve these objective**

## Fire Rescue Services

- ▶ Provide a direct point of contact, individual who is willing to engage
- ▶ Provide regular updates on reported sprinkler activations
- ▶ Promoting sprinkler activations both inhouse/externally via communication channels
- ▶ Reviewing sprinkler content on their websites referencing/uploading sprinkler saves Uk, publications
- ▶ Educate/inform staff increasing the reporting of sprinkler activations

# Questions?



**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

**"We couldn't get out. We were on the tenth floor. It was too high. I can tell you for sure that the sprinklers saved our lives. It is brilliant they were installed in the first place."**

Resident of sprinklered high-rise building in Birmingham

Sprinkler Saves UK documents sprinkler activations across the UK to provide a body of evidence to show that sprinklers save lives, protect people, property and the environment.

You can assist by informing us about a sprinkler activation at a fire that your FRS has attended by requesting your sprinkler ambassador/ or media manager to report it to Sprinkler Saves UK.

You can report a save here [www.sprinklersaves.co.uk/sprinkler-saves/report/add/](http://www.sprinklersaves.co.uk/sprinkler-saves/report/add/)

or contact Sprinkler Saves co-ordinator  
Nick Coleshill [nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk](mailto:nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk)



**bafsa**  
British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

Sprinkler Saves UK is supported by BAFSA - the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

**www.sprinklersaves.co.uk**



**Sprinkler Saves Review 2023–2024**

**Demonstrating why sprinklers make a difference**

*"We couldn't get out. We were on the tenth floor. It was too high. I can tell you for sure that the sprinklers saved our lives."*

*"Sprinklers are not a luxury – they save lives and also reduce risk to the firefighters who have to tackle fires"*

lithium-ion battery fire, tall building, Birmingham April 2023

London Fire Brigade spokesperson

If you hear of a save report it!

Nick Coleshill [BAFSA Sprinkler Saves Coordinator](mailto:nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk)

Email [nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk](mailto:nick.coleshill@bafsa.org.uk)