

NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

MEETING MINUTES

27th August 2008

10:30 hours

Venue

Meeting Room 13

Address is: Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool, Monarchs Quay, Liverpool, L3 4FP.

For Sat Nav, please use the postcode L3 4BX.

<u>Members Present:</u>		<u>Apologies:</u>
Ian Cox (Chair)	IC	Les Fielding (NFSN Secretary)
Ronnie King (Vice Chair)	RK	Andy Perry (Shropshire FRS)
Ray Cassar (Lancashire FRS)	RC	Stewart Kidd (BAFSA)
Steve Mills (West Mids FRS)	SMi	Rosemary Everton
Myles Platt (Merseyside FRS)	MP	Richie Rickaby (Tyne and Wear FRS)
Michael Chrara (WCC)	MC	Peter Holland (Lancashire FRS)
Brian Mellor (Kirklees)	BM	Simon Rooks (Tyco)
Roger Brason (South Yorks FRS)	RB	Paul Fuller (Bedfordshire FRS)
Nigel Reynolds (Oxfordshire FRS)	NR	John Cook (Lincolnshire FRS)
Len Allen (Bedfordshire FRS)	LA	Paul Hardy (Hertfordshire FRS)
Peter Wilkinson (Fire Protection Ass)	PW	Pete Wignall (Nottinghamshire FRS)
Adrian Brown (East Sussex FRS)	AB	Mark Bennett (South Wales FRS)
Jo Fowler (East Sussex FRS)	JF	Julian Parsons (Wiltshire FRS)
Chris Howard (Merseyside FRS)	CH	Jeremy Williams (Bucks FRS)
Stan Cooper (Staffordshire FRS)	SC	Tim Gray (Wiltshire FRS)
Peter Armstrong (BAFSA)	PA	John Sparke (CPIG)
Steve Bryant (Mid & West Wales FRS)	SB	Roy Sandalls
Mark Abram (Cheshire FRS)	MA	David Edwards
Terry Sellers (Humberside FRS)	TS	Leslie Heaviside
Steve Marin (Humberside FRS)	SMA	Steve Seaber
Noel Cornforth (Cleveland FRS)	NC	
Alan Gibson (D and D FRS)	AG	

Agenda		Action
1.	Minutes of NFSN meeting 10th July 2008 – Matters Arising	
1.1.	<p>Introductions and apologies</p> <p>Ronnie King welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting and informed them that Ian Cox (Chair) was giving a presentation at the Fire Conference and would join the meeting as soon as practicable.</p>	
1.2.	Accuracy:	
a)	The date shown on the minutes of the July meeting should read as 2008 rather than 2007 as was printed.	
b)	<p>(5.1g) The previous minute was amended as Follows:- This subject raised much discussion, in particular, in relation to Academies, private schools and colleges, where attempts are being made, in some quarters, to exempt them from using the RA and CBA tools, and from applying the 'spirit' of Schools Minister, Jim Knight's expectations.</p> <p>Consideration was given to the NFSN making an early approach to Jim Knight, seeking his views on what appears to be a "flouting" of the criteria, but on balance, it was decided to wait, and to gather further evidence and information, both on this matter, and the "Building Schools for the Future" programme, before making the approach.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity to take soundings from Jim, at the 10th anniversary Dinner in October."</p>	
c)	(8.15) D & D are keen to become involved in low cost sprinkler pilots if the opportunity arises – should read Cleveland FRS and Darlington and Durham FRS are keen to become involved in low cost sprinkler pilots if the opportunity arises.	
1.3.	Matters Arising not on the agenda	
a)	(1.3.c) Carbon Footprint of fire J. Marsden – Not present at the meeting so carried forward to the October meeting – LF to agenda.	
b)	(2.1) Bernadette Hartley Memorial – Ratification at the October meeting with the expectation that a presentation will take place at the Parliamentary seminar in February 2009.	
c)	(4.1.c) Change of date - NFSN meeting and AGM will take place in the West Midlands on the 5 th March 2009	
d)	(5.1.a) There has been a limited response from FRS in relation to the information spreadsheet provided by LF. A far fuller response is needed to gather the national evidence to show the way in which the RA Tool Kit and the CBA Tool Kit are being used or not as the case may be.	
e)	(5.1.b) RC provided a brief update on the situation in relation to the Darwen Academy. In addition to the excuse that the planning of this academy is long standing the primary reason being given for not fitting sprinklers is that of there being no cost benefit in doing this. As has been	

	<p>documented previously there is little or no pressure or support forthcoming from DCSF. Considerable discussion took place including that of sprinkler installation costs which is key to the outcome of the CBA process.</p> <p>RK reported that Lord Harrison of Chester has said that there will be a 1 hour lunchtime debate on Thursday 9 October 2008 on Fire and Rescue in Europe, when Baroness Kay Andrews will respond to questions. Lord Howie and other friendly Peers have agreed to speak and FOBFO has been asked to provide briefings.</p> <p>The agenda follows that explored at previous FOBFO meetings around issues like the Working Time Directive, Europe Aid, Health and Safety - Automatic Fire Sprinklers, (Glenis Wilmot MEP) and RIP Cigarettes, all raising the question of what support will UK Government give the fire community and FRS, in order to be consulted and listened to in Europe</p> <p>On the 17th September there is a reception in the EU Parliament with Nick Ross speaking on sprinklers.</p> <p>PA provided an update on the BAFSA conference in November.</p>	
f)	(5.3.a) Schools Risk Assessment Tool Kit - data base sent to Chair	
g)	(5.3.b) Schools Risk Assessment Tool Kit - Chair - to write to CFOA	
h)	(5.3.c) Schools Risk Assessment Tool Kit - Chair - Communication with Jim Knight	
i)	(6.1) Sprinkler Activation Post Fire Inspections	
j)	Joint Sprinkler Coordination Group – Political Advisor, Vice Chair	
k)	(8.5) A presentation on ADB will be given at the October meeting	
2.	Chairs Report – NFSN Progress	
2.1.	Warehouses – Incident of Interest East Sussex – Report provided by JF and attached to minutes.	
2.2.	<p>Residential Sprinklers - NERA - Cost Benefit Analysis of Options to Reduce the Risk of Fire and Rescue in Areas of New Build Homes. Copy of the paper provided with the minutes.</p> <p>RK provided the meeting with an overview of the content of the paper. This relates to the options to be considered in the Thames gateway housing project for the provision of a number of options to keep those persons living in this area safe from fire. Due to the fact that there will be no revision of the Building Regs until 2013 there is a need to look at non regulatory opportunities for increasing the use of fire sprinklers. A workshop which took place in July resulted in comments being provided by BAFSA, EFSN and NFSN which challenge the precepts used in the study.</p> <p>Within this challenge RK sent, on behalf of the NFSN, the percentage savings of fire deaths and injuries where sprinklers are fitted. He also challenged the data used regarding the installation costs relating to pump and tank. NERA did not use mains supply figures which would cut the cost especially on large scale installations.</p>	

	The meeting agreed this was an opportunity for a large scale use of domestic sprinklers. (A copy of the proforma which RK sent is attached to the minutes)	
2.3.	<p>Water Liaison Group – RK gave an up to date report at the July meeting with little further to report at this time.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the role and lobbying of Pamela Taylor (Water UK). It was considered a likely need existed to use political leverage to ensure pressure is maintained to enable our (NFSN) voice to remain audible on all issues relevant to sprinklers. The forthcoming Parliamentary seminar is a likely platform.</p> <p>RB raised gave an example of how water company employees do not understand the complexities of connections to domestic sprinkler systems. Recently a contractor working on behalf of a water authority replaced a stop valve with a wrong sized unit and this restricted flow rates to the sprinkler system. This was considered a good example of an issue which should be taken to the Water liaison group meeting. RK asked for full details. RB to provide.</p>	RB
3.	Financial Up-date	
3.1.	Accounts – Little change since the July meeting	
3.2.	Subscriptions – RK informed the meeting that three FRS are currently not involving themselves with the NFSN. RK has written to them encouraging their involvement. Four companies are still to provide their subscriptions, RK has been in contact with them. SM suggested that the companies are provided with a copy of the next supplement as a means of identifying the benefits which should be expected to them.	
4.	NFSN Events	
4.1.	Meetings – IC reminded the meeting of the forthcoming years meetings and planned events.	
a)	Meeting / seminar 16 th October 2008 – West Ex Technology College, (Sprinklered) Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, EX2 9JU. Commencing at 14:00 hours. Ten year celebration booking form revised to include reference to seminar and meal at cost of £40. Included with minutes.	
b)	10 Year Celebration Dinner 16 th October 2008 – 19:00 Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf, Woodbury Castle, Exeter. EX5 1JJ	
c)	NFSN Parliamentary Seminar 2nd February 2009 – Westminster Outline programme with Wiltshire, IOM, Kent, Jim Shannon from USA, and DCFO of Vancouver	
d)	NFSN Meeting and AGM 5th March 2009 (Revised date) West Midlands ‘Safeside’ Building, 99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham, B7 4HW	

5.	Reports of Progress - Constituent Organisations	
5.1.	<p>Report from ESFRS:</p> <p>a) Ongoing issue with a Sixth form college in Hove Planned refurbishment/expansion of current site including new 2,3 and 4 storey buildings. BB100 Risk Assessment tool identified the need for sprinkler protection but they decided not to include them with agreement of Insurers (Zurich). Now claiming BB100 doesn't apply as they are a designated Institution of Further Education. ESFRS have objected to the planning application, made strong recommendation in the Building Regulations consultation, written to the Board of Governors and enlisted the support of the local Fire Authority member (vice chair of the FA). Zurich have also set up a project group to try and achieve a positive outcome also.</p> <p>b) 20 pump fire at a 2-storey warehouse in Rye used for finishing and storing/distributing furniture. Warehouse area just below 7000m2 limit (approx. 150m x 46m) and included a spraying/finishing area at one end. The opposite end had an attached 2 storey office area of approx 750m2. Building was on sandwich panel construction constructed in 2006 and still not signed off by Building Control. Employee arrived at 5.30am to prepare for loading of lorries. Fire alarm sounding on arrival indicating spray booth at far end of building. Investigated to discover a smoke-filled room but no sign of flame. Exited the building and called the Fire Service. Accompanied the Officer in Charge back to the room to discover a red glow in the corner of the room. Crews committed to tackle the fire. Fire spread abnormally fast from this point to quickly destroy the entire building. BRE commissioned to visit the scene and prepare a report – still awaiting this report. Further update at next meeting.</p> <p>c) Fire at Congress Theatre in Eastbourne during a Sunday evening performance. Fire alarm operated and building evacuated. Fire extinguished by sprinkler system. Cause of fire was material left draped over the mirror lights in a dressing room. Sprinkler head isolated and replaced. Audience of 900 people allowed to re-enter the building and the performance resumed.</p>	
5.2.	<p>NE Lincs Authority has now adopted a policy of fitting sprinklers in new schools and where major refurbishments are undertaken. (sizes given of 1000m² or 50% of existing footprint)</p> <p>Currently working with S Yorks at potential sponsorship scheme to get sprinklers fitted in certain Social and Local Authority Housing. R Brason came to put across the benefits and this was warmly received.</p> <p>The next step is to conduct site surveys and cost exercises and approach local housing groups</p>	
5.3.	<p>South Yorkshire: RB Recent case of Insurance Company (AIG?) advising new occupier of an already sprinklered building to isolate the sprinkler system. Could NFSN send a letter to Insurance companies asking the reasons for this? I Cox will write to the FPA for clarification</p>	
5.4.	<p>Durham: A system was recently commissioned in a 7 bed home (single staircase) for residents with disabilities.</p>	

5.5.	<p>BM - Kirklees have now fitted 7 sheltered housing schemes (retro-fitted) (I Cox asked for details of schemes in relation to outline costs and fitting times)</p> <p>Brian is retiring in the Autumn with no one replacing him who has a passion for sprinklers.</p> <p>Brian is stressing the need for a duty of care under the RRO in the move to get more care premises sprinklered. (ie approaching the 'responsible' person)</p>	
5.6.	<p>Mid & West Wales: In December a factory fire occurred where sprinklers (5 Heads) operated. This enabled evidence to be collected and for Police to press for charges.</p> <p>The CPS did not take the case forward but a criminal conviction was almost made. Information is sparse due to the legal nature of the case.</p>	
5.7.	<p>Automatic Water Suppression System – Local Authority Partnerships</p> <p>Humberside FRS confirm a second Local Authority (North East Lincolnshire Council) has signed up to a joint framework agreement for the adoption of policy regarding the installation of sprinklers for new permanent school buildings using the DCSF toolkit & BB100 guidance documents. The policy will also be applied to existing buildings where major refurbishment scheme exceeds 1000m² or 50% of the existing school area. It is expected that the capital cost (approx 5% of build cost) will be accommodated within the capital programme by means of minor alterations to the scheme requirements. System maintenance costs will be borne from school budgets with the some modest insurance premium savings also being achieved.</p> <p>Automatic Water Suppression System – FRS Partnerships</p> <p>Humberside & South Yorkshire FRS are working collaboratively with a Humber region based partner (Bullock Construction) to promote the installation of low cost sprinkler systems to social housing stock in the Grimsby & Scunthorpe districts. Initial meetings & presentations have taken place including demonstration of 2 sprinkler installation schemes in the Sheffield locality. Positive feedback has been received at this stage with both partners acknowledging the social and economic benefits from such installations. The next stage will involve planning and costing example schemes from identified social rented housing stock likely for future major refurbishment schemes. Roger Brason (South York's FRS) has agreed to cost out the physical system costs for example installations with the partner undertaking a survey of building implications and installation costs. There is also a strong possibility of examining the costs for alternative Water Mist schemes versus a typical sprinkler system installation. These figures will form the basis of future planned joint presentations to local authority, housing association members and tenants.</p> <p>It is hoped that a small scale trial of installations may be approved in the first instance and may lead to future expansion to other social housing clients of Bullock Construction (generally Northern England). Decisions regarding installation sighting are likely to be heavily influenced by planned refurbishment schemes but will also take account of FRS local life risk profiling and the identification of vulnerable groups/individuals linked to the occurrence of fires in the home.</p>	

	Further progress on this project will be communicated to future meetings.	
6.	Any Other Business	
6.1.	Discussion took place on the impact of ADB on sprinkler requirements. IC highlighted that INFIRE state that if design freedoms in school are employed then the sprinklers need to be life safety standard.	
7.	Date of next meeting – 16th October 2008, West Ex Technology College, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, EX2 9JU. Commencing at 14:00 hours	

NERA Workshop Notes, 30 July 2008

Name: Ronnie King

Follow-up: YES

1. CBA Model Development

No further observations

2. Effectiveness of Residential Sprinkler Systems

The National Fire Sprinkler Network wishes to challenge the 70% figure for fatality reduction for sprinkler effectiveness, referred to on page 25 of your power point presentation at the workshop.

The USA and NZ results are much higher, and this anomaly needs correction.

On page 26 of your presentation, the BRE report points out that sprinklers plus alarms, reduce fatalities by 83%, and given that BS9251, requires both, then let's use this figure!! (with commensurate reduction for injuries and property damage).

3. Cost of Residential Sprinkler Systems

Given the assumption that the scale and consistency of build, has a huge impact on the cost, and this analysis is about large developments, then the NFSN would prefer NERA to rely on the figures which have been provided to you, in an e mail dated 4th August 2008, by Henry (Tony) Lloyd, Managing Surveyor, Staysafe UK Ltd.; following consultation with a number of his colleague companies, in the residential installer/supply market. (rather than those which are shown on page 30 of your presentation).

You should also establish from Mr Lloyd whether these costs include water connection charges.

The NFSN wouldn't expect individual pumps and tanks to be required on the scale of developments envisaged, where new water mains can readily be provided at adequate pressure and flow.

4. Cost of Other Options (additional FRS resources)

No further observations.

5. Other Comments

In comparing cost versus benefit, the cost of sprinkler installation will fall on the Home Builder, whereas the cost and ongoing costs associated with other FRS resources, falls on the Local Authority, through Central government Grant, supported by the Local Community Charge payer.

The Benefits of course could accrue to a wide range of sources:

The Public

Communities – Sustainability

Local Authorities – by reduced provision of FRS

Health Authorities

Insurance

Environment Agency

The compelling case for sprinklers is that, for around 1% of the build cost, (similar to carpets), fire deaths can be reduced by 83%, (with a commensurate reduction in injuries and property damage).

If the UK as a whole, replicated what has been achieved in Vancouver, the UK Fire Deaths would fall to an amazing 60 annually!!

The Thames Gateway provides an opportunity for some real evidence, on which to base future decisions in relation to Fire Sprinkler protection of property.



National Fire Sprinkler Network

10th Anniversary Dinner

16th October 2008

7:30 pm for Dinner at 8 pm

At: The Greg Norman Suite, Woodbury Park Hotel and Golf Club

Woodbury Castle, Exeter. EX5 1JJ.

Dress: Gentlemen - Black Tie or Lounge Suit. Ladies - Long or Short Evening Wear.

BOOKING FORM

Please return with payment before **26th September 2008 to:**

Mr Les Fielding - Secretary
National Fire Sprinkler Network
6 Massey Road
Devizes
SN10 3UE

Tel.: +44 (0) 7961921521

E-Mail: nfsn@btconnect.com

Partners are welcome; please provide name and complete a menu choice for each participant

If completing by hand please write in capital letters:

Name: _____
Company: _____
Address: _____
City / Post Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

BOOKING FEE: £40.00 per person

(To include; the afternoon seminar at the West Exe Technology College, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, EX2 9JU.)

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Please make cheques payable to "National Fire Sprinkler Network"

ACCOMMODATION:

Please make your hotel reservation directly with the hotel Telephone: 01395 234735 - www.woodburypark.co.uk

The hotel has confirmed that a good selection of rooms and lodges are still available, however, early booking is advised.

PLEASE SELECT MENU CHOICES:

STARTER

Leek and Potato Soup
Poached Salmon with an Avocado and Lime Salsa
Griddle Asparagus, Chicory and Salt Roasted Tomato Tartlet dressed with Watercress Hollandaise (Vegetarian)

MAIN

Slow roasted Aylesbury Duck Breast finished with fresh Kumquats and Cognac served with Dauphinois Potatoes
Fillet of Salmon with Julienne of Carrot and Leek with a Chardonnay and Chive Sauce and Buttered New Potatoes
Baked flat Mushrooms scented with Rosemary and Garlic and served with Petit Ratatouille finished with a Tomato Couli (Vegetarian)

DESSERT

Exotic Fruit Salad with Clotted Cream
Individual Apple and Blueberry Crumble Tart with Sauce Anglaise
Mixed Ice Cream

This will be followed by: a selection of cheese and biscuits and after dinner coffee and petit fours