

# NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

**MEETING**  
**5<sup>th</sup> March 2009**  
**11:00 hours**

## Venue

**West Midlands Fire Service Headquarters**  
**99 Vauxhall Road, Birmingham. B7 4HW**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Initial</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Present:</b>			
Peter	Armstrong	<b>PA</b>	Armstrong Priestley
Nick	Bateman	<b>NB</b>	Oxfordshire FRS
Dave	Beverley	<b>DB</b>	FBU
Ken	Bishop	<b>KB</b>	TYCO
Roger	Brason	<b>RB</b>	South Yorkshire
Alan	Brinson	<b>ABri</b>	EFSN
Adrian	Brown	<b>ABro</b>	East Sussex FRS
William	Butler	<b>WB</b>	Homesafe
Ray	Cassar	<b>RC</b>	Lancs FRS
Noel	Cornforth	<b>NC</b>	Cleveland FRS
Iain	Cox	<b>IC</b>	NFSN Chair / Royal Berkshire FRS
Richard	Elliott	<b>RE</b>	Norfolk FRS
Steve	Fellows	<b>SF</b>	Hereford & Worcester FRS
Les	Fielding	<b>LF</b>	NFSN Secretary
Jo	Fowler	<b>JF</b>	East Sussex FRS
Alan	Gibson	<b>AG</b>	Darlington & Durham FRS
Steve	Griffiths	<b>SG</b>	Kent FRS
Paul	Hardy	<b>PH</b>	Hertfordshire FRS
Chris	Hartrick	<b>CH</b>	Devon & Somerset FRS
David	Kerr	<b>DK</b>	Primary Fire Control
Ronnie	King	<b>RK</b>	NFSN Vice Chair
Robert	Martin	<b>MR</b>	Mid & West Wales FRS
Joe	McCafferty	<b>JM</b>	TYCO
Steve	Mills	<b>SM</b>	West Midlands Fire Service
Graham	Murrey	<b>GM</b>	Cheshire FRS
Julian	Parsons	<b>JP</b>	Wiltshire FRS
Nigel	Reynolds	<b>NR</b>	Oxfordshire FRS
David	Ridley	<b>DR</b>	Buckinghamshire FRS
Lee	Sheares	<b>LS</b>	Cheshire FRS
Ian	Sloss	<b>IS</b>	Staffordshire FRS
David	Smith	<b>DS</b>	ABE
Phil	Smythe	<b>PS</b>	Staffordshire FRS
Duncan	Stainthorp	<b>DS</b>	West Yorkshire FRS
Susanne	Taylor	<b>ST</b>	Homesafe
Peter	Wilkinson	<b>PW</b>	FPA
Cllr Robert	Wilkinson	<b>RW</b>	Lancashire Fire Authority

## Apologies:

Mark	Abram	<b>MA</b>	Cheshire FRS
Nigel	Atkins	<b>NA</b>	West York's FRS
Simon	Barratt	<b>SB</b>	Viking

Steve	Bryant	<b>SB</b>	MAWW FRS
John	Cook	<b>JC</b>	Lincolnshire FRS
Alyn	Edwards	<b>AE</b>	North Wales FRS
Rosemarie	Everton	<b>RE</b>	Retired
Baz	Fox	<b>BF</b>	Northamptonshire FRS
Andy	Goves	<b>AG</b>	Wiltshire FRS
Tim	Gray	<b>TG</b>	Wiltshire FRS
Chris	Howard	<b>CH</b>	Merseyside FRS
Stewart	Kidd	<b>SK</b>	BAFSA
Andy	Perry	<b>AP</b>	Shropshire FRS
Myles	Platt	<b>MP</b>	Merseyside FRS
Richie	Rickaby	<b>RR</b>	Tyne & Wear FRS
Steve	Seaber	<b>SS</b>	Retired
Jeremy	Williams	<b>JW</b>	Buckinghamshire FRS

**Agenda:**

**Action  
By:**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Minutes of NFSN Last meeting 16/10/08</b>	
1.1	Accepted as true record	
1.2	Matters Arising – There were no Matters Arising	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Chairs Report of NFSN Progress - NFSN Achievements 2008</b>	
2.1	<p>It was agreed that the following could reasonably be classed as achievements in 2008:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting at Portcullis House with Justine Greening MP – the Chair outlined the very useful hour long meeting he had with Justine and ABri. She listened carefully to everything, and asked numerous questions. The myths about sprinklers were explained, and the lower cost sprinkler was of particular interest to her. The Chair said that whilst she would obviously make her own judgement about sprinklers, we were always available to ask if she needed clarification.</li> <li>• Contributing to the Welsh Assembly LCO – (see also 2.2 below) – with NFSN, BAFSA, EFSN , Chief Fire Officers Wales, and FBU attending, the Welsh Assembly Govt meetings in support of Ann Jones AM, then there is a broader consideration of the issues needing to be addressed, and the greater likelihood of success.</li> <li>• Water Liaison Group – (see also 2.3 below) – this was beginning to solve the many ongoing issues.</li> <li>• Sprinkler Coordination Group – with the NFSN – BAFSA – EFSN – CFOA now members, there is a greater consensus amongst the various organisations. (See also 2.5 below) cont.....</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliamentary Seminar - and the planned meeting with the Fire Minister - these are excellent political lobbying opportunities which is recognition of the NFSN's credibility.</li> <li>With all UK Fire &amp; Rescue Services now members of the NFSN, in addition to 23 associated organisations, it is a powerful voice on sprinklers.</li> </ul>	
2.2	<p>RK gave an update on the Welsh Assembly Legislative Competence Order and provided information on the recent round table meeting; appended to minutes. The NFSN has actively supported this; the Vice Chair, ABri, RC and Stewart Kidd have attended all meetings. The LCO is presently being considered in Westminster, the Welsh Office and CLG. It will then go back for what is termed as MEASURES still to be addressed.</p> <p>Some of the issues still to be resolved include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timescale for introduction</li> <li>Cost</li> <li>Maintenance issues</li> <li>Water supplies</li> </ul>	
2.3	<p>Water Liaison Group (WLG) – This group has met 4 times in the last year, Chaired by Ronnie King - Minutes of meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009 appended.</p> <p>Inconsistencies - Still difficulties with some water companies but the WLG is helping to resolve these issues through dialogue.</p> <p>Fire Hydrant Workshop where sprinklers will be discussed 23/02/09 RK attending.</p> <p>Consultation re: Water Industries Act 1991 – We seek to make automatic sprinklers a legitimate use of Water for domestic use, under the Act. The Water Companies favour adding a third duty to provide water for EXTINGUISHING FIRES, rather than include it under domestic use. The WLG Chair is awaiting a form of words for a letter to be sent in response to the consultation.</p> <p>ABri suggests that we put forward an independent proposal under the consultation.</p> <p>Meters – there was general consensus that meters shouldn't be fitted, except where there was evidence of leakage or theft of water. (Where meters necessary, large meters which could still detect flow should be provided).</p> <p>Lengthy discussion took place on lower cost sprinklers.</p>	
2.4	2.4.a) Lower Cost Sprinkler (Combined) Systems:	

At the last WLG Mike Larking (CLG) reported that progress is being made. The original (FPA) design guide was not compliant with current water fittings regulations. The design guide has been reviewed and confirmed by CLG's water consultant that it did not comply with the Regulations (the principal contravention being the presence of "dead legs". Although the FPA claimed that there had been no evidence produced to substantiate this statement).

(Consultation with WRAS has also taken place to assess the New Zealand Branz System design, draft comment has been received which has not yet been published, but indications are that it would not be compliant.)

Design Guide Version 7 now includes two systems that appear to be compliant with the water fittings regulations

CLG are working with 4 fire authorities to develop pilot schemes to move this forward. The first of these is in Lancashire where they are looking to fit the systems in 12 new houses. Kent, Suffolk and Northumberland are the other authorities involved.

They had not had responses from water companies in Lancashire, Kent & Suffolk in relation to a pilot for the FPA system, but initial discussions suggest that Northumbria Water might be prepared to trial the non-compliant system. (i.e. the system as proposed in the FPA Design Guide). However Northumbria Water has since declined to trial the non-compliant system at present.

#### 2.4.b) Low Cost Sprinkler Trails:

FINDS Message sent out by the NFSN Chair (Appended to minutes) Deadline for response is 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The Chair reported that 15 FRS's and 5 Water Companies have responded and indicated a willingness to support this initiative. (the ability to identify sources of funding or "match" funding would be of benefit)

Advising that there is likely to a short term problem in the slow-down of house construction; however this gives us the opportunity to be better prepared, be in a position to prove these systems and be ready for an up-turn in new home development.

Need to determine:

- How much it really costs
- How long it takes
- Any other issues that arise

Further work:

- Carry out independent tests on the dead leg issue as a matter of urgency

	<p>WB - how do you get hold of CLG Spec? RK - Mike larking at the CLG</p> <p>NC - Cleveland share frustrations as they had the opportunity to work with Northumbria water 2 years ago but this has been frustrated by water issues.</p> <p>HL - would it be possible to put a 9251 system in parallel with the low cost systems. The Chair and SG suggested that in some of the pilots (like Kent) there would be scope to try a variation of systems.</p> <p>SG - would like to run trials of both in Kent to evaluate cost</p> <p>RC- Lancashire are progressing with trials of the CLG Version 7 which complies with water regulations</p> <p>To conclude the Chair advised that there are risks involved here and we should be careful not to damage the reputation of sprinklers.</p> <p>A meeting had been arranged for involved pilots, plus water companies and CLG, at Staffordshire FRS HQ on 6 April at 2pm</p>	
2.5	<p>Sprinkler Coordination Group:</p> <p>The SCG has met 3 times in the last year; the NFSN is represented by Ronnie King &amp; Les Fielding. The group is representative of BAFSA, EFSN, NFSN &amp; CFOA. The purpose of this group is to meet regularly to ensure harmony of communication with Government and other interested bodies, a positive way of ensuring a consistent message.</p> <p>2.5.a) Political Advisor:</p> <p>A proposal to appoint Nick Raynsford has not been progressed due to a change in his other Government Commitments. This is still an aspiration of the NFSN in partnership with SCG that will be progressed if the right person becomes available. Suggestions in this respect would be welcome, please communicate to the Vice Chair.</p> <p>2.5.b) Keith MacGillivray</p> <p>For several years Keith MacGillivray has been a keen supporter of the NFSN. In December 2008 he retired from the Scottish Executive.</p> <p>Before Keith joined the Scottish Executive, for many years he was a champion of sprinklers in Strathclyde and brought about changes there on policy regarding schools that influenced the rest of Scotland. Now that he has retired Keith has agreed to represent the sprinkler industry in Scotland using his political, fire service and other contacts. The plan is for Keith to work on a part-time basis (three days a month) with his fees being met by the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association, National Fire Sprinkler Network and the European Fire Sprinkler Network. BAFSA will pay 50% of his fee, while NFSN and EFSN will each pay 25%. The NFSN contribution will be funded from within 2009 budget from residual monies carried over from 2008.</p>	

	<p>This will ensure the NFSN is involved in making a more effective contribution in Scotland.</p> <p>Before her death Bernadette Hartley started several initiatives in Scotland. Apart from schools, Scotland requires all new care homes with more than six residents and all apartment buildings higher than 18m to be sprinklered. In addition Glasgow City Council is making the fitting of sprinklers a condition of planning permission on land that the Council sells and Angus County now requires all new social housing to be fitted with sprinklers.</p> <p>Scotland is very receptive to development in fire life safety provisions such as sprinklers and it will now be possible to generate more of these local initiatives as well as to make changes that apply to the whole of Scotland. Keith will encourage those sympathetic to sprinklers; be available to answer practical questions; organise high profile meetings with Ministers, Members of the Scottish Parliament, local Councillors and others of influence so that the sprinkler cause is championed as effectively in Scotland as it should be.</p> <p>The NFSN are delighted to be part of this important development and look forward to our first meeting in Scotland since 2004; when we meet in Edinburgh on the 4<sup>th</sup> June this year.</p>	
2.6	NFSN Business Plan 2009 – LF to make the updated NFSN Business plan available to members on the NFSN web site.	
2.7	<p>NFSN Parliamentary Seminar 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009:</p> <p>68 people battled with the atrocious London weather on 2nd February to get to Westminster, to take part in the NFSN/All-Party Group Fire Sprinkler Seminar “Business Continuity – Non Regulatory Strategies to Deliver the Increase and Greater use of Fire Sprinklers”.</p> <p>Despite cancelled trains, no buses, and limited underground operating, brave and determined delegates, made their way to the Houses of Parliament to hear some excellent papers, and to contribute effectively to the wide debate.</p> <p>Three overseas speakers, James M Shannon, former US Congressman, and President &amp; Chief Executive of the NFPA, Gosta Holmstedt, Operations Manager, Swedish Fire Sprinkler Association, and Les Sziklai, Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Vancouver, wondered what all the fuss was about, being used to much worse snow conditions in their own respective Countries!!!</p> <p>Bill Feeley Chief Fire Officer of Kent and his team ignored the cancelled trains from Maidstone and took to a mini-bus, which arrived just in time to walk straight into his presentation, whilst still in his overcoat!!</p> <p>Julian Parson got in on the last train from Oxford to London, and delivered both his own and the Chief’s paper.</p> <p>Both Kent and Wiltshire are seen by CLG as good practice FRS’s in pursuing sprinklers through non-regulatory routes.</p>	

	<p>Keith Pratley from Welsh Water (Dwr Cymru), arrived via Hereford, Oxford and Paddington, to catch one of the few tubes operating, to get to Charing Cross, where he walked to the Institute of Civil Engineers to collect Jim Marshall's speech on behalf of Water UK, and duly presented it with great enthusiasm and skill.</p> <p>Steve Mills (the first recipient of the Bernadette Hartley Award) walked from Marylebone station (45 minutes) to get to the Seminar and received the prestigious Glass Trophy from Bernadette's two daughters, Amy and Barbara, who had travelled from Gloucester to make the presentation.</p> <p>During the event, Kenneth Davey, Managing Director (International Division) FM Global presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the NFSN from its FM Global Grant Awards scheme.</p> <p>And finally the most determined attendee must be the Rt. Hon. Nick Raynsford MP, who arrived at the Houses of Parliament, to give the Introductory address, by Riverboat from Greenwich!!!</p> <p>Congratulations and well done to all who showed the true British spirit and got to the seminar despite the adversity.</p>	
2.8	<p>Bernadette Hartley Memorial Award – Three entries were received for the award, which were considered by the NFSN Executive. The award winner for 2009 is Steve Mills West Midlands Fire Service. He was presented with a specially commissioned glass award at the NFSN Parliamentary Seminar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 by Bernadette's daughters Amy and Barbara. A drawing of Bernadette used for the graphics on the award was also presented to Amy and Barbara.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his thanks to Ken Bishop for his help in commissioning the award and drawing of Bernadette.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>NFSN Events 2008/09</b>	
4.1	Meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2009 – Edinburgh email	
4.2	Meeting September 2009 - (To be confirmed)	
4.3	Meeting November 2009 - (To be confirmed)	
4.4	NFSN Parliamentary Seminar 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010	
4.5	<p>AGM &amp; Meeting March 2010 - (To be confirmed)</p> <p>Venue's are required for the meetings in September, November and March, any members able to support please contact Les Fielding <a href="mailto:nfsn@btconnect.com">nfsn@btconnect.com</a></p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Presentation BS9999 – David Smith ABE</b>	

	<p>Presentation appended to minutes</p> <p>David advised that the BS 5588 series ceases to be current on 6<sup>h</sup> April 2009.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his appreciation for a very informative presentation, especially as it outlined the true benefits of sprinklers in risk assessed building.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Reports of Progress - Constituent Organisations.</b>	
5.1	<p>BAFSA – Supplied by Stewart Kidd</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The BAFSA DVD 'Wise Up to Fire - Sprinklers for Safety' has been enormously successful with more than 1500 copies distributed to a wide range of individuals and organisations.</li> </ol> <p>A second DVD concentrating on sprinklers in residential and domestic sprinklers is currently being produced.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. BAFSA will be running a one day seminar on residential and domestic sprinklers on 6 May in Aberdeen. The seminar is aimed at regulators as well as installers, end users and specifiers. Booking forms are available on line at: <a href="http://www.bafsa.org.uk/pdfs/snews/00000738.pdf">http://www.bafsa.org.uk/pdfs/snews/00000738.pdf</a></li> </ol> <p>There is a charge of £125 (BAFSA members) £150 (non members) for this event.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. BAFSA is combining with the FIA to run two fire safety in care home seminars - details and booking form at: <a href="http://www.bafsa.org.uk/snews.php">http://www.bafsa.org.uk/snews.php</a>. These are free of charge to delegates.</li> <li>4. BAFSA/FIA are also organising also organising a warehouse fire safety seminar on 10 June 2009 in the West Midlands.</li> <li>5. Copies of the 2010/11 Sprinkler Handbook (the Blue Book) are now available free of charge on application to: <a href="mailto:info@bafsa.org.uk">info@bafsa.org.uk</a></li> <li>6. BAFSA will shortly be issuing its second Technical Advice Note which will cover applications and installation of CPVC pipe for sprinkler systems.</li> </ol>	
5.2	<p>Kent FRS – Steve Griffiths</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) SEFIP REGIONAL SPRINKLER SEMINARS <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 'Sprinklers Support Safer &amp; Sustainable Communities' 30<sup>th</sup> April at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire SL0 0NH</li> <li>b. Sprinklers form a Fire Service Perspective, Wray Park 8<sup>th</sup> May</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) Kent are developing design guide for residential sprinklers.</li> </ol>	
5.3	EFSN – Alan Brinson	

	<p>The EFSN are very active in France and are in the process of appointing a representative in France.</p> <p>Alan Brinson is setting up a module at the French Fire Service college on sprinklers</p>	
5.4	<p>Hertfordshire – Paul Hardy</p> <p>Paul reported that Hill Mead Junior School (the last school in Herts. to be built without sprinklers) Was totally gutted by fire in a matter of minutes.</p> <p>The fire was during schools time and necessitated a speedy evacuation of the whole school.</p> <p>This has raised political issues of why the school wasn't protected in the first place. Fire fighter safety issues were also highlighted as well as building construction methods such as gang nails and the failure of cavity barriers.</p>	
5.5	<p>South Yorkshire – Roger Brason</p> <p>Roger reported that 6 new schools in South York's and all but one have sprinklers fitted.</p>	
5.6	<p>Staysafe – Henry Lloyd</p> <p>Henry advised that he was aware of misinterpretation of the use of sprinklers by Building Controls where partial sprinkler protection was being used as a compensatory feature for other fire safety measures. Whereas when used as a compensatory feature only systems conforming to recognised standard (i.e. BS 9251) should be used</p> <p>The chair to contact LABC to raise this issue.</p>	<b>IP</b>
5.7	<p>Devon – Chris Hartrick</p> <p>Chris advised that following NFSN Meeting in Exeter last October there had been an increase in local political support for sprinklers.</p>	
5.8	<p>Primary Fire – Sylvester Phillips</p> <p>Sylvester reported of trade query to take sprinkler system out of Hospital.</p> <p>Discussion took place and he was advised to refer the matter to the local Fire &amp; Rescue Service if he received such queries in the future.</p>	
5.9	<p>Wilts – Julian Parsons</p> <p>Julian reported that a report of the recent 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary review of Studley Green would be in next Fire Risk Management publication.</p> <p>He will provide a copy of the report to be posted in the case studies on the</p>	

	NFSN web site following publication.	
5.10	<p>Lancashire - Ray Cassar</p> <p>Ray reported that Lancashire are involved in CLG Pilot scheme</p> <p>That there is reluctance of the education authority to use the sprinkler risk assessment tool, what can we do to address this issue.</p> <p>The Chair advised Chris Enness on behalf of CFOA is looking at setting up a register across the country of new schools being built and working closely with DCFS reporting problems to them.</p>	
5.11	<p>Homesafe – William Butler</p> <p>Sustainability:</p> <p>William advised that many new schemes require rain water harvesting and this provides a ready source of water for a pump sprinkler supply.</p> <p>This has also been raised in written communication to the NFSN by Steve Seaber the former CFO of Hertfordshire who suggested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lobbying national and local government to encourage the use of sprinklers in the many proposed large scale sustainable developments. NFSN could do this through its fire service network.</li> <li>2. The need to raise awareness of the potential of using grey/green water harvesting systems to provide adequate water supplies for sprinkler systems.</li> </ol> <p>Susanne Taylor of Homesafe advised that a presentation by Homesafe on their experience on these systems could be given to the June or September meeting.</p>	
5.12	<p>East Sussex – Jo Fowler reported:</p> <p>a) There is the potential to include sprinklers in a new Hospital development but there are difficulties persuading clinical managers that there is no risk of legionella from the system</p> <p>Anyone who has knowledge of a hospital that is fitted with a wet system please get in touch with Jo and provide case history if possible.</p> <p>Discussion took place and it was conceded that there is no definitive ruling on the legionella and sprinkler systems but guidance is available.</p> <p>b) Any FRS with a Sprinkler strategy if they could provide Jo with a copy.</p> <p>c) Stand at Labour Party Conference, opportunity for NFSN to attend.</p>	

	d) School destroyed by fire just re-occupied in new build fitted with sprinklers.	
5.13	<p>Cleveland – Noel Cornforth reported:</p> <p>a) A Hilton Hotel is being fitted with sprinklers</p> <p>b) Has anyone got any experience of getting sprinklers provided through the RRO (FS) Order</p> <p>SM advised that it is possible to use RRO to maintain systems and prevent them being removed from existing buildings but was not aware of its use to ensure their provision.</p>	
5.14	<p>Darlington &amp; Durham - Alan Gibson</p> <p>Alan reported that he had attended a public meeting regarding new Academy's and by asking publicly if sprinklers will be fitted has had successful results.</p>	
5.15	<p>Cheshire - Lee Sheares reported that Cheshire are risk profiling communities and seeking opportunities to influence with regard to provision of sprinklers in high risk areas.</p>	
5.16	<p>Staffs Phil Smythe reported that he has been tasked to look at residential sprinklers and asked if any of our members able to support his work could contact him.</p>	
5.17	<p>Oxfordshire – Nigel Reynolds reported:</p> <p>a) County Policy requiring every school to be risk assessed by the Fire Service using tool kit.</p> <p>b) Every existing school to be risk assessed by the Fire Service and action plan produced to upgrade standards above that of ADB.</p> <p>c) Case Study St Edwards School, 2006 Project in Private School. Where an Engineered solution was adopted. Nigel will provide case study for NFSN Web Site.</p> <p>Nigel advised that this would be his last meeting before his pending retirement from the service.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Nigel for the work he had done contributing to the sprinkler cause.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Any Other Business – There was no other business.</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Edinburgh</b>	