

NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

MEETING
15th June 2005

11:00 hours

Venue

Millennium Stadium, Cardiff

Confirmed Attendees: - Ronnie King - Chair, Les Fielding - Sec, Chris Hartrick -Devon FRS, Pete Wignall - Notts. FRS, Gareth Lloyd - SW FRS, - John Streets, Andy Kelly - FSC, John Wildish -Kent FRS, John Sparke - Merseyside FRS, Nick Mathews - Somerset FRS, William Butler - Homesafe, Paul Hardy – Herts. FRS, Stuart Smith - Staffs FRS, Keith Marsh – Lancs FRS, John Hoey, Andy Cloak - South Yorks. FRS, Steve Wain, Nigel Reynolds - Oxfordshire, Jim Marsden - GMC FRS, Neil Woods - Cooperative Insurance Society, Phil Coleman - MAWW FRS, Glyn Jones, Mark Earwicker – Essex FRS, Alan Gibson - DD FRS, Mark Burton, Gordon Turner - Avon FRS, Duncan Stainthorpe - West Yorks. FRS, Peter Wise - LFCDA, Adair Lewis - FPA, Jo Fowler - East Sussex FRS, Steve Mills – West Mids FRS. Sir George Pigot – FSA (31)

Apologies: Peter Holland, Ken Bishop, Julian Parsons, Peter Armstrong, Karen Taylor, Stewart Kidd, Alan Brinson, Ann Rosemarie Everton, Gordon Cooke, Martyn Eastman, Bruce Hoad, Steve Bryant, Chris Caton, Stewart Kidd, Peter Armstrong, Chris Blake, Brian Allen, Brian Mellor, Tony Carvel, Peter Howard

Agenda:

1 Chair's Welcome, Apologies and Introductions.

DCFO Andy Marles opened the meeting. Explaining that, Mr Hugh Lewis, Deputy Minister Welsh Assembly for Social Justice and Regeneration would be addressing the meeting at around 12.45. See Appendix 'A' Ministers address.

The Vice Chair Ronnie King chaired the meeting in the absence of Peter Holland. Ronnie opened the meeting by asking everyone to stand as a mark of respect in tribute to Sir Kenneth Holland CBE., OSt.J., QFSM., F.I.Fire.E., former HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services, and former Chief Fire Officer of West Riding of Yorkshire and Bristol Fire Services, who passed away on Friday, 3rd June 2005, aged 86 years.

The chair welcomed new members including: John Hoey ACFO S Yorks. CFOA Sprinkler Lead Officer and also taking over from Steve Seaber on NFSN Exec. Stuart Smith (Staffs), Keith Marsh (Lancs), Jim Marsden (GMC), Neil Woods (Cooperative Insurance Society)

The Chair also commented that Jim Knight had now been appointed Junior Minister for the environment, wishing him well. He also congratulated other MP's supportive of the NFSN on their re-election, Jim Fitzpatrick, Michael Clapham and David Amess.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting – 17th February 2005.

Accepted as true record

3 Matters Arising.

Item No.

5.a. National Policy and Guidance

Since the last meeting Paul Hardy has met with CFOA Lead Officer John Hoey, it was reported to the meeting that this was a very useful meeting following John taking over the lead on sprinklers from Steve Seaber.

John stated that he was very keen for CFOA to produce National sprinkler guidance and policy by forming a working group to move this forward. He said he would like to lead on this and would welcome support from the group that was identified at the last NFSN meeting.

Bill Butler asked if this working group would include industry and building control stakeholders. John said that he would prefer to produce policy and guidance first then seek for this to be endorsed other groups once suitable framework documents had been produced.

Action and way forward: Paul Hardy to discuss with John to establish best way forward, CFOA to lead NFSN to assist where possible. Paul to report progress to next NFSN meeting.

5.c. NFSN Activities - A record of NFSN Activities is being maintained

6. Sprinkler section of BB 100 – This was sent to NFSN Members, anyone requiring copy please email Les Fielding.

7. Water Policy Group - on main agenda

9. Web Site - on main agenda

4 Treasurers Report.

The treasurer gave an outline of the NFSN finances as of the 31st March 2005. He then went on to discuss the bid to IFSA which failed to gain any additional funding, stating that it was even more important now for those who had not yet paid their subscriptions to Network to do so.

Sir George was at the IFSA meeting when the decision was made and commented that the NFSN bid was primarily for administrative funding and that future applications should be more specific on what campaigns or marketing activities the money would be used for.

Bill Butler offered for Homesafe to fund the Secretary's work for the remainder of the year, the Vice Chair thanked Bill for his offer, which was accepted in spirit, subject to approval by the Chair.

It has since been agreed that Homesafe will sponsor the Network with £500 per month until the end of the financial year.

Action: NFSN Invoice Homesafe for sponsorship.

5 Secretaries Report:

5.1 NFSN activities.

- a. Submission for funding from IFSA – Business Plan CD ROM For Exec Members
- b. RICS Conference – Peter Holland Speaker, The chair was a key speaker at a recent RICS Conference
- c. Schools - Peter Holland – The Chair had organized a meeting with LGA at CFOA HQ This had been arranged for 14th June – Unfortunately this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the funeral of Sir Kenneth.
- d. Schools publicity Avon – Avon have provided CD ROM of BBC News Presentation in April – This was covered extensively on local news and again on the political program on Sunday of the same week. The 6 minute recording was shown and this generated much discussion:

John Wildish commented that he is trying hard to get recognition for sprinklers in schools in Kent particularly new super academy's being built. He said that in spite of high-level meetings he has still been unable to gain recognition of the benefit of sprinkler protection in Local Government schools although there had been success in PFI schools. It was suggested that PFI projects see sprinkler protection as asset protection where Local Government prefer to write off losses.

Gareth Lloyd commented that there is much success now with many new schools in South Wales being sprinklered. He also informed the meeting of two school fires one where a teacher had to be rescued and one where a pupil had to be rescued from toilets.

The Chair responded that Wales was much more proactive than England in implementing sprinkler policy.

Both Paul Hardy and Steve Wain suggested that we should pull together statistics of:

- No of schools protected
- Case studies of fires where the school was occupied
- Case studies of trade off's where the provision of sprinklers as an holistic engineered solution has made other savings.

Sir George commented that we do not see the true cost of fire and that the figures reported only account for insured losses. He also commented on figures for school losses in the North East being £97m for one summer holiday period only.

Sir George felt that Fire Services could do more to record the true losses and rebuild costs when fires occur in their areas.

Stuart Smith said that in Staffordshire there was a mixed response to sprinkler provision in schools with the county council being supportive and the city councils being resistant. He suggested that the Fire Service should have a policy of producing risk assessments for all schools and presenting the findings to the education authorities clearly demonstrating the residual risk they carry without the provision of sprinklers.

Jim Marsden GMC felt that the Fire Service are very good at communicating to middle managers but often fail to communicate effectively to the decision makers. In his opinion this often leads to a lack of understanding of the issues by those people who have direct control of budgets.

The Chair thanked the meeting for such a meaningful discussion on this important subject and felt that it would be useful to manage data on schools fires more effectively. He suggested that it would be useful if the network members in Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Services were to forward any details of schools fires to the NFSN Secretary and to provide the secretary with numbers of schools now protected.

e. December Meeting (AGM) – The December meeting is planned for the 7th at Armstrong Priestley in Leeds. However, John Streets has offered to host the December meeting at the FSC with an afternoon conference, NFSN Dinner in the evening followed by the NFSN meeting the following morning. This would be a good opportunity to hold an AGM to review the membership arrangements for the last years and seek a consensus of opinion from members and to review membership of the NFSN Executive. John said he had contacted Peter Armstrong and he was supportive. The meeting agreed and John has agreed to make necessary arrangements.

f. The Secretary informed the meeting that he recently attended the UK Tunnel Operators Forum and had been invited to represent sprinkler interests on PIARC Working Group 6 Fire and Smoke Control in Tunnels. Alan Brinson has offered to sponsor his attendance at PIARC Meetings.

g. NFSN Web Site – Development

The secretary informed the meeting of developments that has now taken place with the NFSN Web Site, stating that it had been fully reviewed but still needed some work doing to make it more informative. The number of hits will now be monitored and this will be the basis of a key performance indicator for the NFSN.

Les asked for support from members in providing case studies and current news items for the site. Minutes of meetings and other information will be placed on the web site in future for ease of access by members.

- Case Studies – Template is available and will be sent with minutes, please provide case studies of interesting sprinkler projects so that others may learn from your experience.
- News Items – Please let the secretary know of any news items, regarding sprinklers, i.e.: Sprinkler stops, large fires that could have been controlled by sprinklers, school fires, sprinkler campaigns etc.

h. NFSN Seminars had been planned for:

- 8th September 2005 – Severnside, Avon
- 28th September 2005 –Wray Park, Surrey
- 12th October 2005 – South Yorkshire
- 20th October 2005 – Tyne & Wear

This was discussed and it was generally felt that there was currently no Unique Selling point for these seminars to make them worthwhile. It was felt that it would be better to focus on a Parliamentary Seminar in the Autumn and the Christmas conference and dinner.

Outcome:

- **Postpone NFSN Seminars**
- **Vice Chair to Contact Douglas Smith re: Parliamentary Seminar**

- **John Streets to make arrangements for Xmas Conference, Dinner and Meeting. Dates to Agree with Chair.**

6 DfES draft documents Building Bulletin 100 & BB 77– Fire Safety, Approved Document B England and Wales

No further news.

7 Home Owners Pack – 2007 Legislation - Bill Butler

Bill has some innovative ideas on how the proposed home owners pack for home maintenance could be used to support sprinkler provision in residential property, in particular he thinks that the sprinkler industry should be represented on the Government working party that is working toward this aim. Bill also commented that it is extremely important to install systems to a recognised standard, otherwise it could be difficult to sell homes in the future if installation and maintenance records are not available in the Homeowners pack. Bill told the meeting that he estimates that less than 12% of installed residential systems are being maintained effectively.

The secretary commented that this would have to be the subject of future Community safety campaigns as the popularity of residential sprinklers increases.

Bill is also keen to see innovative ideas such as the eco friendly homes scheme developed in New Zealand be developed for the UK.

8 Use of Concealed Heads – Question by Steve Mills. Paul Hardy gave update;

Paul Hardy (PH) attended the recent steering group meeting for the ODPM project 'Effectiveness of sprinklers in residential premises – an evaluation of concealed and recessed pattern products'. This research project is being conducted by BRE on behalf of the ODPM. This work is nearing completion. The full report and results of fire tests will be published and available to all via the BRE and/or ODPM website. A seminar is planned (hopefully within the next few months), where BRE will discuss and debate the research, testing and findings.

All the fire tests are now complete, and the steering group members were informed of the results. Overall, concealed and recessed sprinkler heads performed exceptionally well in various test scenarios. BRE developed their own test rig to measure the thermal sensitivity (Response Time Index - RTI) with the associated Conduction Factor of these heads. No such test previously existed for these heads, hence why they have an 'unrated' classification (and therefore deemed inappropriate in certain applications).

Although recessed and concealed heads performed extremely well, the testing programme did produce some significant findings, particularly with some specific manufacturer's/designs. It was found that a small number of sprinkler head designs may have their performance adversely affected by;

- a. fitting of the head at maximum recess (as per the manufacturers specification)
- b. frame arm shadowing
- c. cover plate lugs in unfavourable position

PH explained the testing process and what factors contributed to the performance of these heads.

9 Water Policy Group Report - Water Supplies Technical Committee- Feed back from Ian Whittaker

Water Technical and Policy Documents were made available for the meeting in hard copy below is Ian Whittaker's report.

Ian has done his best to clarify the issue over the status of the technical guidance document that was worked upon some time ago. It reached a stage of reasonable completion and was useful along with the learning points from the discussions to feed into the review of DD251. Ian was reluctant to take the document much further in terms of a fanfare launch or wider publicity until the work on DD251 was completed, as he was also the Water UK rep on BSI committee FSH18/2 that reviewed DD251. This was in case any issues were highlighted which contradicted the content of the Guidance Doc.

Now that BS 9251 has been published it might be an opportune time to have another read through the document and see if it warrants further work or amendment. At the moment, however, Ian has a lot of work on in other standards areas and it could be a little while before he can commit himself to support his review process.

With regard to the "water technical committee" Ian I assumes that this is/was the group that supported the drafting of the Guidance Document. I would suggest that this group is no longer active unless we were to call it to meet again some time to support a review process. The document was quite widely circulated electronically and has proved beneficial in improving practices, understanding of Water Regulations, mutual understanding between Water Companies and Installers/designers on appropriate service pipe arrangements etc.

Ian pointed out that the Policy (or Protocol) document has been published a while now. This was done in a more formal matter with a printed document being produced and signed up to by various trade associations. It dealt with matters of principle where there was greater potential for miss understanding and disagreements over how water supplies are provided to these residential and domestic sprinkler systems.

Both these document will be provided on the NFSN web site in the next week along with the minutes.

Action Put Policy on Web site, Sire George and Roy Young will take lead on progressing the Water Technical Document.

10 BS for Water Mist Systems – Paul Hardy

Paul Hardy (PH) stated that Eric Cranswick of Aqua-Mist Fire Protection Ltd is in the final stages of producing a draft standard for the use of water-mist fire suppression systems in a residential application. This draft standard will then be submitted to a sub group of the BSI FSH 18/2 Committee for consideration. PH believes the draft standard will include provision for low, Medium and high pressure mist systems and compare wherever possible with the residential sprinkler standard (BS 9251).

11 Reports of Progress - Constituent Organisations.

11.1 Chris Gill – Viking

News on sprinkler product developments *ESFR system for cold storage now available* – An approved system employing K360 ESFR sprinklers and a glycol-based antifreeze is now available for protecting cold storage without the need for in-rack sprinklers.

Failsafe pre-action – If the power and back-up batteries to a standard pre-action system fail then the system is rendered completely inoperative and the risk left without any sprinkler protection. A fail-safe system is now available which automatically reverts to a standard dry system on power failure, ensuring continued protection.

Reduced water damage with recycling pre-action system – A system is now available which behaves as a pre-action system with the added benefit that as the fire is controlled the system will automatically shut-off, thereby reducing water damage. Should the fire rekindle again, the system re-activates to control the fire and will continue the on-off cycle until the system is manually shut-off.

Convenience and aesthetics for alarm valves – Wet, dry, deluge and pre-action valve sets and trim are now available in a one box solution with simple connections drastically reducing installation times. All the instrumentation is clearly identified making on-going testing and maintenance easier.

11.2 Kent FRS John Wildish

1. Two new buildings (Nursing Homes) constructed at Tenterden & Margate and fitted with sprinkler systems in accordance with DD251 are now complete, with Tenterden already partially occupied. There are plans to provide more of this type of accommodation across Kent
2. Heritage premises fitted with sprinklers to enable a private theatre to be granted a theatre licence.

11.3 Member's Report Essex June 2005 – Glyn Jones

Normally member's reports are of items that are encouraging and positive. This report from Essex Fire & Rescue Service unfortunately is not so up beat. I think it is still important to submit the report to highlight how much work we still have to do to convince certain sectors of the community of the benefit of sprinklers.

1. "Sprinklers for Life" Competition

Despite running a number of seminars, demonstrations and other initiatives we in the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service were concerned that the number of domestic sprinkler systems installed were small. At the same time there was also a growing awareness, locally and nationally, that some vulnerable people, despite having a working smoke detector would not be able rescue them selves from a fire. We reasoned that raising awareness of the benefits of sprinklers among a key group of people, those that care for the vulnerable, would go along way to addressing the problem.

Essex decided to mount a competition to find someone at risk who would benefit from the installation of a sprinkler system in their homes. Over two hundred application forms were sent

out to charities, social services and individuals asking them to nominate someone at risk who they thought would benefit from having a sprinkler system fitted. Despite numerous follow up calls we had only 5 replies; from these Essex Social Services helped us select a winner. It was a difficult choice between two equally deserving applicants. Originally the project was being financed using money from income generation schemes, but there was only enough money for one installation. However, when the ODPM made funding for home fire safety improvements available we were able to have a second system installed. The first system has been installed and the second will start shortly.

Sprinklers are now one option in our Home Fire Safety Visit programme, which was launched on 10th March 2005, with assistance from the Fire Sprinkler Association. Essex Fire & Rescue's fire fighters will visit homes to carry out a risk assessment and offer fire safety advice. We will fit smoke detectors if required and for those people at very great risk we will discuss fitting sprinklers with the householder.

The project has been a valuable experience for Essex County Fire & Rescue Service. It has highlighted how very difficult it is to get caring agencies, both statutory and voluntary, interested in domestic sprinklers. Also what seemed to be a very simple idea, "install sprinklers in some ones home", turned out to be a minefield of issues about, "who will own the system?" "Who is liable?" "can we give away public money?" and many more.

In line with our Home Fire Safety Visit Programme we will continue to consider domestic sprinklers where this is the best solution, however we will look to do this by supporting another agency who would organise the installation.

2. Thames Gateway – Schools

The section of the Thames Gateway north of the River Thames project will involve the building of tens of thousands of new homes many in the Thurrock District Council area. Thurrock is a Unitary Authority. Along with the houses it has been said there will be 14 new schools in Thurrock, although we have only seen plans for one at the moment.

This area has one of the highest rates of arson in Essex, including two serious school fires in the last 5 years. Despite numerous meetings and presentations to the authority they will not entertain their idea of sprinklers.

11.4 South Wales – Gareth Lloyd. Successful Sprinkler Actuation

On 18th May at around seven in the morning a fire occurred at the Trikon Technologies plant in Newport, South Wales, a semi-conductor equipment manufacturer. The fire started when a fluorescent light fitting overheated, ignited a thermoplastic diffuser and dropped onto machinery. The fire started to develop and subsequently operated the sprinkler system. The fire was extinguished by the operation of only one sprinkler head. Due to the high cost of this particular machine, it is estimated that the fire damage will amount to approximately £2 million pounds. The machine in question was located in an area that had a further seven similar machines installed. Following discussions with a representative of the company, Divisional Officer Gareth Lloyd of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service has established that if the fire had developed without the intervention of the sprinkler system the damage could have amounted to approximately £20 million pounds in that one area alone and of course could potentially have spread to a far greater extent. A spokesperson for the company explained that they were delighted that sprinkler system proved to be so effective and had no doubts that the damage would have been far greater if sprinklers had not been installed.' Divisional Officer

Lloyd commented that this incident is yet another example of a massive potential fire loss averted by the operation of only one sprinkler head and serves as an excellent reminder of the efficiency of these systems.

11.5 NFSN report from West Midlands Fire Service, June 2005 – Steve Mills

1. Steve Mills has taken up a post at Fire Service HQ, on a trial basis, with a full time sprinkler reference.
2. A major school building programme is due to take place in Walsall but so far there is no commitment to fit sprinklers. We will be working on this.
3. Attendance, along with the FSA, at the HMO Network conference in Walsall on May 24th 2005 resulted in a clear show of interest in sprinklers especially from Local Authority housing officers.
4. Dudley MBC is offering up to £5000 towards upgrading HMO's in the Borough, including sprinkler provision. So far there has been little interest shown but WMFS are keen to develop a partnership approach to promote this scheme.
5. The local 'Homestamp' scheme booklet is being amended to include a larger reference to sprinklers. 'Homestamp' is a scheme to drive up standards within the housing sector and involves WMFS, Landlords, LA housing officers, along with WM Police and other interested parties.
6. WMFS sprinkler policy has been ratified. Guidance notes to Fire Safety personnel to be issued in due course.
7. The new 'Sony' sponsored City Technology College at Menzies High School in West Bromwich is now open and is fitted with sprinklers.
8. Meetings have taken place with Birmingham City Building Control Officers regarding the responsiveness of concealed sprinkler heads.
9. On going work is being carried out to target 'at risk' and provide suitable protection measures, including fire suppression systems where appropriate, through the Community Safety Budget funding stream.

11.6 Avon FRS Report for National Fire Sprinkler Network –15th June 2005, Mark Burton

1. Stroud Road – Shirehampton

BS9251 system fitted to overcome the problems caused by a registered fire setter. The said individual started three fires in his home in 2004 so AFRS persuaded his mother to allow us to fit sprinklers to protect the family and property.

The system was designed by Station Officer Graham Blight and installed by Sprinklers SW. It was commissioned in May 2005.

Cost to AFRS was £3,500. System was capable of running direct from the mains.

2. School Road Kingswood

Three starter homes with B5 problems in that access was via tight lane with no possible turning circle.

Developer consulted the Fire Authority and we agreed to the project subject to full sprinkler system being put into each property.

Fully compliant to BS9251 systems fitted at the cost of £1,500 per house.

Expected to be commissioned in June/July 2005.

AFRS will publicise the development and make it available to the NFSN website.

3. Long Ashton School (Northleaze Primary School)

Started February 2005 – Finish 36 weeks.

Builders – Cowlin

Architects – BBA (Bath)

2nd school in North Somerset (new build) to be fitted with sprinklers to BS5306.
Credit due to Councillor Glyn Duck.

AFRS have been approached by Bristol Water to give 2 presentations to their Officers and the Head Office on Domestic and Residential sprinkler systems. The request came about following queries from the water officers saying “these systems are becoming more and more popular.” Our contact name is Steve Robbins.

4. ADT

Recently attended ADT HQ's to view a low-pressure water mist system. The system ran via a pump giving pressures ranging from 12-30 bars at 6 ¼ litre per minute. The pump required a small header tank to prevent air entering the system on operation.

The heads, although not being concealed, were small and unobtrusive. They operate at around 59°C and give a good spread of water particles. ADT would fit the system to BS9251 requirements in terms of spacing and coverage. Speaking to their engineers, it would appear they were unaware of the agreement with the Water Authorities over drawing water directly off the mains supply. They are looking to obtain a standard / approval for their system and will be forwarding details of all the components in the near future.

5. CD ROM for Les Fielding on the Sprinklers for Schools report by the BBC.

6. Look Forward - Two jobs looking likely to proceed this year:

- One HMO allowing relaxations if sprinklers fitted.
- One disability workshop with relaxations.

If both go ahead then we will present them to be added to the NFSN web site.

11.7 H & W FRS – Chris Blake

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service are very pleased to announce that they have secured a contract with Wormald Fire Systems to install a Fire Sprinkler System in their new Headquarters, which is to be fitted throughout the premises. This has been achieved following

an agreement reached with Wormald Fire Systems to support H&WFRS in our aims to demonstrate the life safety and property benefits that such systems can contribute.

The new Headquarters, consisting of a three storey existing office block, which is due to be occupied in September 2005, is currently subject to a full refurbishment programme. The refurbishment has allowed us the time to install an Ordinary Hazard Group 1 fire sprinkler system, which has also provided an opportunity to demonstrate and reflect the continued commitment by H&W FRS to the promotion of such systems, as a benefit in reducing fire loses in our community. There are added benefits in that if a fire took place, then it would be quickly dealt with minimising damage and allowing early reoccupation, this being one valuable element in our Business Continuity Management plan for such a crucial premises.

As part of the package it has been agreed that Wormald Fire Systems will also undertake presentations, seminars, support our events and provide specialist knowledge and training to our personnel in a bid to raise the general awareness in this important area of fire protection.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Station Manager Chris Blake at; H&WFRS, Amphlett Court, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove. B60 2BN. Telephone 01527576633

11.8 Devon FRS - Chris Hartrick

1. The first of the 6 sprinklered Super Schools being built under PFI has been completed ahead of schedule. Three more are due for completion this summer. We are negotiating for dedicated space for CFS literature etc. These buildings are innovative in design with atriums and we have a limited number of 'fly around' CD's available for selling the sprinkler message.
2. Following consultation with developers and building control we have recently agreed a residential installation in a large three-storey open plan house in Bow.
3. Devon County Housing Association is installing domestic sprinklers in 24 apartments as part of the Cheeke Street redevelopment project in the centre of Exeter.
4. We are currently consulting with Exeter City Council to install sprinklers in Gabriel House, an establishment for vulnerable people as part of a £350,000 refurbishment.
5. We are currently consulting with Exeter City Council to install sprinklers in The Nicholls Centre, a two-storey facility for 20 physically impaired people.

11.9 Kirklees District Council – Brian Mellor

Brian provided information to inform the meeting that Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing have recently completed installation of sprinklers in one sheltered housing premise with two more going to tender.

11.10 Lancashire F & RS – Chris Caton

1. Residential Care Homes
 - Sprinkler systems are being fitted in 14 Residential Care Homes owned by Lancashire County Council at a cost of £1.643 m
 - The program of refurbishment and fitting sprinklers should be completed by December 2005.

2. New Build Schools
 - Exemplar schools being built in Blackpool at a cost of £7.5m sprinklers are being fitted, this is scheduled for completion Sept 2005
 - Lancashire County Council are to fit sprinklers in all new build schools from 2005/06
3. Furniture Warehouse Blackpool area
 - A four-story warehouse, which has sprinklers fitted and needed some maintenance when the owners consulted insurers for a reduction in premiums this was refused. As a result the sprinkler system has been decommissioned.
4. High Bay Warehouse South Ribble
 - Warehouse of 7960m² is to be fitted with sprinklers.
5. Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
 - LFRS are putting together a bid document, which will go out to all Local Authority Housing Departments for a partner scheme to fit sprinklers in high risk HMO's. Some funding is available from the ODPM, LFRS are looking for a partner who would match this funding. The incentive for the Private Landlords is the reduction in life risk, design freedoms and ongoing maintenance costs.
 - LFRS have a draft policy document which the service management team is considering.

12 Any Other Business

No other business the meeting closed at 15:10 hrs

13 Date of Next Meeting – 21st September 2005, Lancashire F & R S Training Centre - 11:00 Hrs

Mr Hugh Lewis Deputy Minister, Welsh Assembly for Social Justice and Regeneration

Mr Lewis addressed the meeting:

I am pleased to be here today at the Millennium Stadium speaking to the National Fire Sprinkler Network Meeting for the first time.

I apologise in advance that this is a flying visit but this is due to constraints of minority government.

This is certainly a lively time for the Fire & Rescue Service in Wales. Following devolution, the Welsh Assembly and its partners are working to achieve the Assembly Government agenda for the very best Fire and rescue capability.

Community safety plays an increasingly important role in our communities and in the Assembly's wider aims and objectives for Wales. I am glad to report that there have already been some achievements.

Prior to devolution the Community Fire Safety Working Group was established to ensure that public and private sector bodies work jointly to reduce the numbers of deaths and fire related injuries and to protect domestic and public property in Wales.

Part of this Group's remit of course was to examine the scope for installation of sprinkler systems.

The Group has produced two reports, the first 'Wired for Safety' published in October 2001 and the second, 'Up in Flames' published in February 2003.

'Wired for Safety' called for the Assembly Government to consider how it could promote sprinklers in Multi-occupational Public Buildings, such as schools, an issue that was expanded upon in the 'Up in Flames' report, with a call to adopt widespread use of sprinklers in all new build school buildings and the potential retrofit these into the fabric of existing schools.

To this end the Assembly Government committed to undertake a pilot programme of school sprinkler installations in a school in each of the three Fire and Rescue Authority areas.

To date this has resulted in funding of £270,000 for Ysgol Bryn Tawe in Swansea, within the Mid and West Wales Fire Authority area.

We have been unable to progress the issue in South or North Wales, but to offset this, it has been possible to identify a further schools in Mid and West Wales – and I am pleased to report that Groes Primary School, Margam, has recently been offered £94,000 towards a total cost of £108,950 for the installation of a sprinkler system.

Discussions are currently going on with regards to the installation of sprinklers in further schools and we hope to continue with this excellent initiative to reduce the risk of death, injury and the enormous cost of damage and disruption related to fire in schools.

More widely we are also considering how best to ensure public buildings have sprinkler systems incorporated into their fabric.

Building on the good work undertaken by the Community Fire Safety Group the Assembly Government has decided to develop the group into a fully fledged advisory body to help develop

Community Fire safety Activity in Wales and this is set out in the recently published Fire and Rescue Services National Framework for Wales.

Finally and in closing, it is important that we do not work in isolation on issues such as Community Fire Safety. Jointly we have the capacity to achieve our shared ambitions. Helpful evidence, perspectives and practical options for change exist and can be channelled through the shortly to be convened Community Fire Safety Committee, where I am sure that issues such as sprinkler installations will feature in due course.

Many thanks for your attention, I hope very much that I can attend again and have more time at my disposal on that occasion.