



## Position Statement

### Sprinklers

March 2013

#### Publicity Line

Sprinklers are the most effective way to ensure that fires are suppressed or even extinguished before the fire service can arrive. They save lives and reduce injuries, protect firefighters who attend incidents and reduce the amount of damage to both property and the environment from fire.

As fire service budgets are being cut back significantly, preventative measures such as sprinklers will be more important than ever, particularly in high risk buildings such as those housing the vulnerable or where escape is difficult.

Firefighters often use 15 times more water from hoses to do the same job as a sprinkler does alone. Sprinklers only activate at the site of a fire, so will cause significantly less water damage than using hoses. It is a MYTH that all sprinklers are activated when there is a fire.

Moreover, where a sprinkler system has been installed:

- Firefighters are exposed to less risks and are therefore safer
- Fire deaths have been almost eliminated
- Fire injuries reduced by 80%
- Significant improvement in firefighter safety achieved
- Property damage reduced by over 80%
- Reduction in the environmental impact of fire
- Reduction to the economic cost of fire

Myths also exist about the installation and maintenance cost of sprinklers. The cost of installation is estimated to be about 1-2% of the total cost of construction. On-going maintenance costs are minimal, estimated to be between £75 and £150 per year.

England ✓

Wales ✓

Scotland ✓

Northern Ireland ✓

We will:

- **Vociferously** promote and campaign for the installation of sprinklers to enhance and improve public and firefighter safety where appropriate.
- Lobby for the creation of a legal requirement to fit sprinklers in high rise premises, care homes, schools and other buildings where risk to life and property from fire are most significant, with the eventual aim of creating a legal requirement for sprinklers in all new construction.
- Act as a point of liaison and co-ordination for all UK Fire and Rescue Services in terms of information dissemination, good practice, research studies and campaigns and all other Sprinkler related work in progress
- Act as a point of liaison and co-ordination between all UK Fire and Rescue Services and other interested stakeholders