

Date: 24 February 2020

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our Ref: CE/YB/DLF
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Dear Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

At a recent meeting of the Council, consideration was given to a motion in connection with Sprinkler Systems. The Council approved the motion and I was asked to write to you accordingly. The approved motion is set out below.

“There are on average 37,000 house fires per year in the United Kingdom. Last year, including 72 fatalities from Grenfell, 334 lives were lost in residential fires. In general, fewer people are dying from fire related incidents, but figures do fluctuate. In all these 37,000 fires only 25% were fitted with smoke alarms, that’s just 9,000.

The highest cause of fire deaths is smoke inhalation usually started by cooking and electrical appliances left unattended.

In all these fires almost, every life could have been saved if the premises had been fitted with sprinklers systems but so far only a limited type of buildings are forced by legislation to require sprinklers to be deployed.

That is upwards of 300 deaths that could have been avoided. Sprinkler systems are relatively cheap to install at the construction stage and target only the heat source of a specific fire, ensuring that the fire does not spread through the building. The water also removes larger smoke particles greatly reducing asphyxiation from smoke and fumes, it also cools the smoke making it less harmful.

Sprinkler Systems:

- Reduce death and injury from fire
- Reduce the risks to fire fighters
- Protect property and heritage
- Reduce the effects of arson



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- Reduce the impact of fire on the environment
- Reduce fire costs and the disruption to the community and business
- Permit design freedoms and encourage innovative, inclusive and sustainable architecture
- Protect mental health and wellbeing
- Promote and support business continuity

Sprinklers reduce injuries by at least 80 per cent, reduce property damage by 90 per cent and substantially reduce damage to the environment from fire.

Fire sprinklers are widely recognised as the single most effective method for fighting the spread of fires in their early stages.

The installation of fire sprinklers could virtually eliminate fire deaths.

Blackpool Council is instigating a major housing development project and as a council the future safety of all Blackpool residents must be ensured.

By passing this motion, the Council will at the forefront of fire safety in the home and the Council's actions of lobbying the Minister could lead the way for other authorities to follow suit and help save many lives.

This Council therefore calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government to consider making it mandatory in building regulations that house builders install Fire Authority approved sprinkler systems on all new residential buildings. These sprinkler systems to be at an adequate level for each particular design of house as agreed with the National Fire Authority".

We hope you will give this proposal full consideration and look forward to your response or any further opportunities to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Neil Jack
Chief Executive



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