

This report is the second in a series that will provide a detailed analysis of compound data¹ on fire incidents in Great Britain where sprinklers systems were reported over the period of 2018/19 to 2020/21.

The aim of the analysis is to focus on identifying trends, discussion points and insights relating to the use of sprinklers within Great Britain. The outcome of which will evidence that can be used to influence change making the installation of sprinklers the norm not the exception.

INCIDENT DATA
REPORT ...
FOCUS ON
SPRINKLERS

British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association

bafsa

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In the previous report it was identified that.

- England dominated the figures regarding the number of primary fires attended by Fire & Rescue Services in which sprinklers were recorded as present by building height.
- Unsurprising based on the variation in the population figures and the number of high-rise residential buildings built since 1949.
- Most reported incidents with sprinklers present are within the category of 10 storeys or more, given the regulatory guidance from early 2000's.

This report will focus on the location of the fire where sprinklers were reported as being present, activating in the following building types.

- Purpose built flats low rise, 1-3 storeys
- Purpose built flats medium high rise, 4-9 storeys
- Purpose built flats high rise 10 or more storeys

1.0 FIRE START LOCATION, PURPOSE BUILT BLOCK OF FLATS

When the figures are broken down for the year 3-year period surprisingly refuse stores account for the highest number of fires incidents where sprinklers are reported as being present followed by kitchen fires.

FIRE START	FIRE START LOCATION	ENGLAND	SCOTLAND	WALES	GRAND TOTAL
Inside the flats	Kitchen	85	1	3	89
	Living Room	13	1	2	16
	Bedroom/ Bedsitting Room	14	-	-	14
	Dining Room/ Utility Room/ Conservatory	2	-	-	2
	Bathroom/ Toilet	1	-	-	1
Outside the flats	Refuse Store	119	25	1	145
	Corridor/ Hall/ Open Plan Area/ Reception Area	12	-	-	12
	External fittings and structures	8	-	-	8
	Under stairs (enclosed, storage area)	-	-	-	1
	Roof/ Roof Space	1	-	-	1
Other	Other	24	2	-	26
Grand total		279	30	6	315

Table 1. Location of fires attended by fire rescue services in which sprinklers were reported

1. Source: FOI Requests for Incident Recording System Data relating to primary fires attended by FRSs in which sprinklers were present for England, Scotland, and Wales for the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21

2.0 COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS

- Refuse stores account for the highest number of incidents where sprinklers are recorded as being present in fire incidents in purpose-built blocks of flats.
- The government publication, “Purpose-built block of flats guide” provides guidance, advice to reduce the risk of fire in refuse and chute rooms including that further protection can be provided by a sprinkler system. This is clear evidence that this is being applied.
- What cannot be defined by the data is whether the installation of sprinklers within buildings is limited to these refuse stores alone or extended to the occupied flat areas.
- Inside the flat, Kitchen incidents accounted for the highest number of sprinklers recorded as activated.
- When the figures are compared to the latest detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, April 2020 to March 2021 cooking appliances were far the biggest ignition category for accidental fires accounting for 46% of fires.
- The presence of sprinklers inside the flats in fire incidents follows this data.

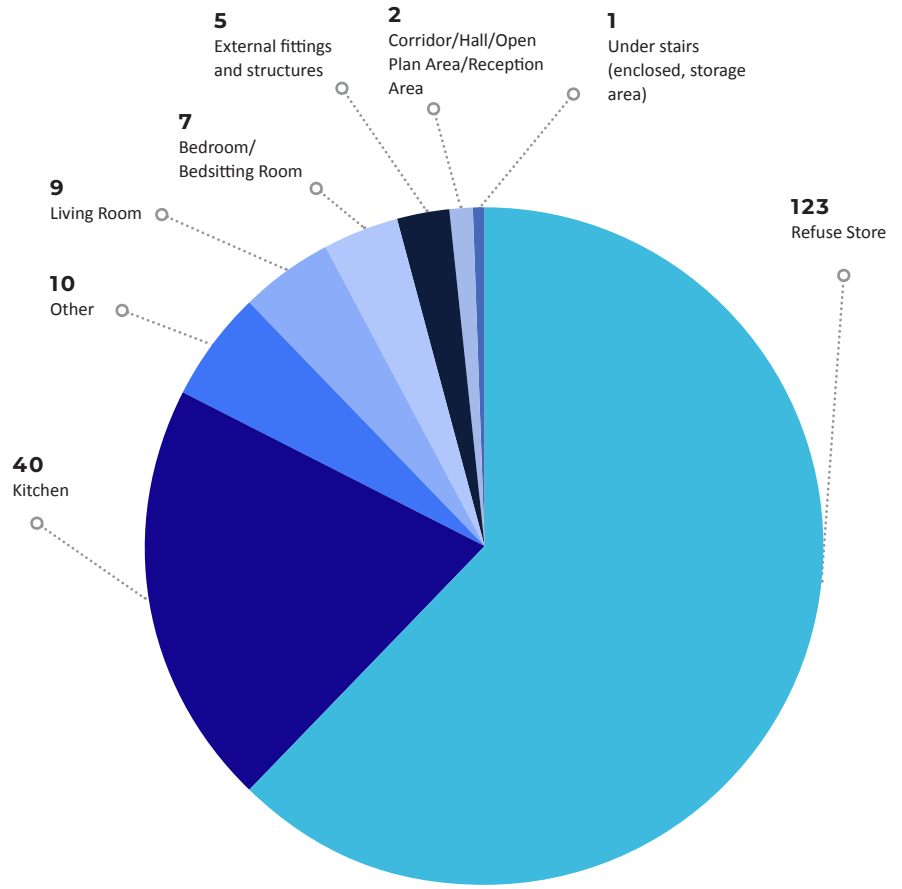


Table 2. Fires attended by fire rescue services where sprinklers were recorded as operated

