



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Position Statement

SERVICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Title	Sprinklers Position Statement
Category	Fire Protection (FP)
Status	V3.0
Action	All FP personnel, awareness for all Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) personnel
Accountability	Protection Manager
Security classification	Official
Published	January 2025
Review due	January 2027

Fire sprinklers, and other forms of Automatic Fire Suppression Systems (AFSS), have a clear and proven benefits that support both the protection and preservation of life and of the built environment.

NFRS fully support the inclusion of these systems and endorse the [Automatic Water Suppression Systems Policy Statement](#) - National Fire Chief Council (NFCC).

NFRS will promote AFSS within new and refurbished premises. Actively seeking to give advice and guidance to those premises who consider the inclusion of AFSS in their fire strategy; so to recognise the potential benefits within the building design.

Research provides evidence to support the clear benefits of AFSS and, as part of an appropriate package of fire safety measures, these systems can:

- Save lives and reduce injuries
- Protect property
- Reduce the impact of fire on the environment
- Reduce interruption to UK businesses
- Assist search and rescue operations and reduce the risk to firefighters
- Increase community resilience
- Preserve heritage

Recent investigative research by the NFCC and National Fire Sprinkler Network (NFSN) using actual fire data studied the effectiveness, reliability and positive contribution of sprinklers for life and property safety. The evidence found that:

- The performance effectiveness of sprinkler systems was 99% across all building types
- The operational reliability of the systems was 94%

The analysis is from Fire Service data and is published within the [Optimal Sprinkler Report](#) and [A Supplementary Report](#).

The evidence dispels many of the myths surrounding sprinklers system.

If you are considering the inclusion of AFSS within your design or building then the NFRS would welcome any contact you make with us. We promise to work with you to ensure that the benefits are fully captured and as such your assessment on their inclusion is based upon a good understanding of their operation and performance.