The NFSN is a network that includes all UK Fire and Rescue Services, representatives from sprinkler manufacturers, installers, BAFSA and the insurance sector.

The main aims of the network are lobbying for the wider use of sprinklers, educating on the benefits of sprinklers (and myth busting), evidence gathering to support the business case for sprinklers and the provision of technical and general support to its members when dealing with queries on sprinklers.

The NFSN is an independent, respected and recognised contributor to the matters discussed at the All Party Parliamentary Group for Fire Safety and Rescue and as such is in a position of influence on matters related to the wider use of sprinklers.

The NFSN is chaired by a serving CFO, Rob Barber of Staffordshire providing a direct link into the NFCC at CFO level to ensuring the sprinkler agenda remains current and allowing best practice on issues such as retro fitting and sprinkler campaigns can be coordinated both across the NFCC and the NFSN network.  Rob is supported by a NFCC sprinkler lead DCFO Jonathan Dyson of North Yorks FRS.

The close relationship with NFCC has provided some excellent opportunities for joint working in recent years culminating in the production of the Reliability and Effectiveness of Sprinklers research that proved the benefits of sprinklers across a range of buildings. This research is now quoted in British Standards.

The report is basically a review of FDR1 fire reports from all fires in buildings where sprinklers were present. The report answers two questions.

* Are sprinkler reliable? (do they go off)
* Are they effective? (Do they contain/control the fire when they go off)

The outcome being 94% reliable and 99% effective.

[optimal\_sprinkler\_report.pdf](https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/write/mediauploads/nfcc%20guidance%20publications/protection/optimal_sprinkler_report.pdf)

The network meets three times a year and provides case studies on best practice and a host of support for such as, pursuing the retro fitting of sprinklers in high rise buildings. The value of the NFSN is its diverse membership and the access to experts across the field on all matters related to sprinklers.

The strength of the NFSN when pursuing the wider use of sprinklers is the link to NFCC, the direct link into the All Party Group and the take up as almost all UK FRS’s as members which is a great bargaining chip when dealing Government, most recently demonstrated in the successful approach to lobbying on the lack of sprinklers in new high rise buildings.