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THINK SPRINKLER!

Sprinkler systems save lives. There has not been a single fire death in a property that had sprinklers fitted. This is why we support the fitting of sprinklers – it makes you safer.

This leaflet aims to explain the reasons why sprinklers are such lifesavers and get rid of a few of the myths that sometimes surround them.

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THINK SPRINKLER!

What difference would a sprinkler make if a fire was to break out?

When a fire breaks out the smoke can make it difficult to find your escape route. A sprinkler system will automatically activate to stop you from becoming trapped by heat and smoke. Allowing you and your family to get to safety.

Doesn't a smoke alarm provide me with all the protection I need?

Smoke alarms are indeed lifesavers too. The difference is that they save lives by alerting you to a fire and giving you extra time to get out. What they don't do is put the fire out. This is where sprinklers come in. They will stop the fire, protect your home from the fire and keep you safe.

What about water damage?

This is probably the question most people ask and what most people are worried about.

In truth if you have a fire and firefighters need to put it out then they will use up to 10,000 times more water to do this. Also because the fire will have been able to burn for longer without a sprinkler there to put it out the damage it will cause will also be far greater.

A valuable item sprayed with water from a sprinkler as it puts out a fire can usually be recovered or restored. One that is burnt to a cinder and flushed down the drain by a fire hose is another matter!

To put it simply – sprinklers will protect your home not put it at risk.

Will cooking smoke set them off?

No. Unlike smoke detectors sprinkler systems only go off when there is a significant source of heat such as an actual fire.

If someone in another flat has a fire will my sprinkler go off?

No. Only the sprinklers directly above the actual fire will activate to deal with the flames.

If I get a sprinkler can I get rid of my smoke alarm?

No. Smoke alarms still have a vital part to play in keeping you safe. A sprinkler will help extinguish a fire in your flat but a smoke alarm will alert you when there is a fire in another part of the building. This will give you the chance to escape safely.

If you would like more information or would like to see some videos of sprinkler systems in action please visit our website.

The timeline below illustrates the progression of a fire in a building both with and without sprinkler system.

Building without sprinklers  Building with sprinklers 

