



# EUROPEAN FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

## **August 2007 Report**

August was a quiet month for half of which I was on holiday. I prepared for a seminar to the Greek fire services in the autumn and sent in comments for the review of BS 7974-7, the British Standard for probabilistic risk assessment in fire engineering. Bernadette and I met with officials responsible for the design of schools to review progress with official design guidance. We also met John Willis, a lawyer with disabilities who can help us to lobby for sprinklers in care homes. Bernadette prepared for seminars in France and The Netherlands.

### **Marc Rumeau**

I met Marc Rumeau, the President of the French fire trade association, FFMI, to discuss how the French sprinkler industry could become involved with the EFSN.

### **John Willis**

John Willis is a lawyer who was disabled as a baby by thalidomide. I met him by chance. He is well-connected in the charitable care sector and runs a charity. He personally intervened to see that sprinklers were fitted in two care homes built by that charity. He will help us to make the case for sprinklers in care homes in the UK and to secure the support of care groups.

### **UK Schools**

Bernadette and I met with officials to discuss progress with preparing Building Bulletin 100, which gives formal design guidance to those designing schools. The draft document contains a foreword from Jim Knight MP, the Minister for Schools, which is very positive about sprinklers. The document is now clear in its intention that sprinklers should be fitted and in the opportunities for architectural freedoms they bring. It will be published in October.

### **PD 7974-7**

This document is the standard used in the UK for fire safety engineering. It contains many errors about the reliability and performance of sprinklers but is now being revised. I sent in several pages of comments for the committee to consider.

### **Preparation for Seminars**

I prepared a presentation I will give to the Greek fire services in Thessalonica in October. Bernadette prepared presentations that she will give to the Geneva Association insurance seminar in Paris and the VSI Dutch sprinkler trade association

in The Netherlands. She is giving these presentations because I will be in the United States with the French Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers. With this group I will visit NIST, University of Maryland and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Washington, as well as FM Global and its fire test house in Boston.

**Next Steps for Alan and Bernadette**

- 1) Alan to attend Interflam international fire engineering conference in London.
- 2) Alan to attend French fire engineering conference in Paris.
- 3) Bernadette and Alan to meet BRE to discuss sustainable buildings.
- 4) Alan to attend long range planning meeting for EFSN.
- 5) Bernadette to give presentations at insurance seminar in Paris and sprinkler trade association in Netherlands.
- 6) Bernadette to visit Sweden to prepare campaigns there.
- 7) Alan to visit NIST, University of Maryland, SFPE, ATF, FM Global with French Chapter of SFPE.