



# EUROPEAN FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

## **August 2008 Report**

August was a quiet month with many people on holiday, including me. During the month I set up the infrastructure to register for online training seminars and the first participants registered and paid. I also visited potential sites in Amsterdam for the April 2010 Conference. While I was away three companies applied to join the EFSN.

### **Online Seminars**

On 8<sup>th</sup> September the EFSN will give the first of a series of online training seminars. I will give this seminar, with the title “Introduction to Sprinklers”. A further six seminars are planned, all to be held on the second Monday of the month at 15:00 Central European Time and to last for 90 minutes. Details of the seminars are now on [www.eurosprinkler.org](http://www.eurosprinkler.org) and the payment and registration system using Paypal is operational. Seminars cost €200 for non-members and €100 for EFSN members. All you need is an internet connection to participate. The first seminar participants have already registered and paid. The full list of seminars in the first series is:

- Introduction to Sprinklers
- Sprinkler System Hydraulics
- Commodity Classification
- General Storage
- ESFR Sprinkler Systems
- Design of Sprinkler Systems in Earthquake Zones
- High Rise Building Fire Sprinkler Protection

### **2010 Conference**

I visited the Renaissance Hotel in Amsterdam. The hotel is protected by a combination of sprinklers and water mist but the conference building (a large old church) across the road is not protected, although the hotel has asked for permission to fit a water mist system in this historic monument. It is unlikely that we will find a conference venue that is sprinklered since even the RAI exhibition centre is unsprinklered so the Council will have to decide on the best compromise for the Amsterdam Conference, which is scheduled for 27-28 April 2010.

### **New Members**

In August Ingeniørfirma Tore Eide AS, a Norwegian sprinkler contractor; Prevent ivg, a Dutch sprinkler contractor; and R2B Inspecties, a Dutch inspection bureau, joined the EFSN.

### **Reception in European Parliament**

Preparations continued for this event on 17<sup>th</sup> September, which is intended to re-launch the EU Sprinkler Forum. Posters were printed and sent to Brussels along with pull-up screens and other materials used at previous events.

### **Backflow Prevention Report**

I distributed a report on backflow prevention to members of the EFSN Technical Committee. This report summarises regulations on backflow prevention in different European countries. There is a wide difference in application of EN 1717, the European standard for backflow prevention, to sprinkler systems between different European countries, so that in some countries it is impossible to connect sprinkler systems directly to the mains, making a pump and tank essential, while in other countries it is normal practice and even demanded by the authorities that sprinkler systems be connected directly to the mains. The risk to human health would appear to be the same in every country and since there has not been any recorded case of ill health due to contamination of water from a sprinkler system, it would seem that the fears in countries that do not currently allow mains connections are groundless. The challenge is to find a way to persuade them to relax their position without losing face.

### **Annual Audit**

I submitted the accounts to the auditor for the annual audit. This is to be prepared for consideration by the Council at its next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 in Cologne.

### **Next Steps**

- 1) Review accounts with auditors.
- 2) Meet Anthony Burd of Communities and Local Government.
- 3) Meet Councillor Brian Coleman, the new Chairman of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority.
- 4) Run online training course.
- 5) Participate in WG5 in Brussels.
- 6) Participate in European Fire Academy seminar in Brussels.
- 7) Organise European Parliament Reception 17<sup>th</sup> September in Brussels.