

## Press Release

1<sup>st</sup> October 2004

### FIRST LIFE SAVED IN WALES BY DOMESTIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM

A domestic sprinkler system, installed by a member of the British Fire Consortium, has saved the life of a young man in Newport, South Wales. The Consortium believes this to be the first ever life saved by a domestic sprinkler system in Wales and the third in the UK.

Firefighters from Newport's Maindee and Malpas fire stations attended the call in the early hours of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. When the fire crew arrived at the property, currently in use as a House in Multiple Occupation, they found a sprinkler had already extinguished the fire which had started on the cooker in one of the bedsits. The occupant was suffering from slight smoke inhalation but did not need hospital treatment. A fellow occupant of the building had called the fire brigade after being awoken by a smoke detector.

The sprinkler system was fitted to the property earlier this year by BFC member Fire & Safety Ltd of Newport. A sprinkler head is fitted in each bedsit and smoke detectors in the escape route corridors are connected to the system.

Divisional Officer Gareth Lloyd of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service said, "What is clear from this incident, is that a tragedy was averted by a residential sprinkler system. Had a sprinkler system not been installed, then the occupant of this property, we believe, would have died. A correctly designed and installed sprinkler system is heat activated and designed to detect and control a fire at an early stage of development by reducing the temperature, and reducing the poisonous effect of the smoke, which is what causes death in most cases."



The British Fire Consortium (BFC) is a trade association of over 150 independent UK companies which install and maintain fire protection equipment including fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, fire blankets and safety signage. There are also members who specialise in the installation of sprinkler systems. Members are based all over the UK. For more information please call the BFC Secretary on 01273 297274 or visit the BFC website at [www.tbfc.org.uk](http://www.tbfc.org.uk) or, if your interest is specifically in domestic or residential sprinklers, please visit [www.bfcsa.org.uk](http://www.bfcsa.org.uk)

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