

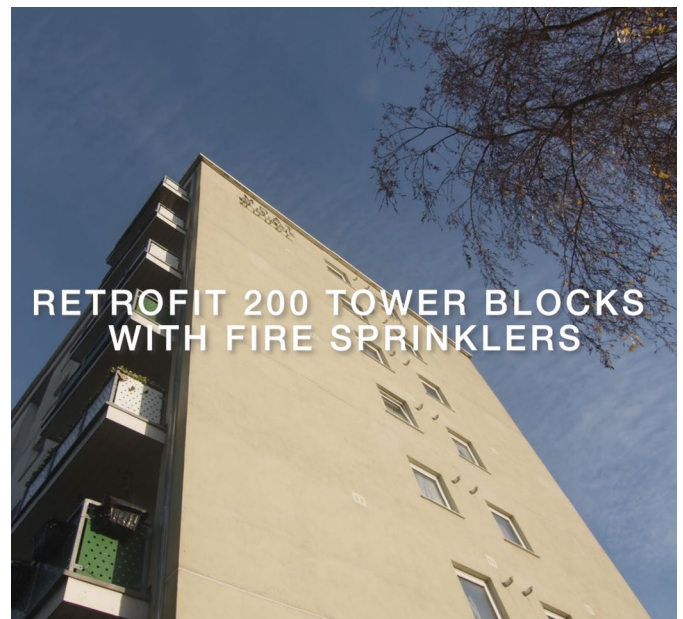
CASE STUDY

BlazeMaster[®]
FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

Following the events of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, along with major new building legislation in England, Birmingham City Council's initiative to protect over 200 high rise buildings across the city with sprinklers is now complete.

Together with Triangle Fire Systems, Engie and the West Midlands Fire Service, BlazeMaster Fire Protection Systems invites you to see the story of this major life saving project unfold.



Watch Video



A MATTER OF URGENCY

At the announcement of this three year rollout programme, Birmingham City Councillor John Clancy described the project as “a matter of urgency.” While the second stage of the Grenfell Inquiry is still ongoing, meanwhile in Birmingham this unprecedented retrofit project is fully complete.

The rollout includes fitting every apartment across 205 high rise residences with fire sprinkler protection. Every council owned tower block in Birmingham is part of this project.

The installation of the sprinklers themselves is being operated by Triangle Fire Systems, working together with ENGIE to ensure pipes and fittings are securely installed across each building as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Sprinklers are being installed in every room (except the bathroom) across each apartment.

Project Manager for this rollout, Tristan Rhodes of Triangle Fire Systems describes sprinklers as “the best option the tenants have got available to them, to make the building significantly safer.”

BLAZEMASTER CPVC: ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE

As with any retrofit project, the main challenges facing the team are staying on schedule and managing the safety of residents. For a project of this magnitude, those challenges are amplified.

BlazeMaster CPVC was selected for this retrofit project, and is now being installed for thousands of Birmingham residents.

Tristan explains why:

“ CPVC is excellent for use in most residential projects, if not all, but particularly retrofit as it’s a lot cleaner than metal systems.

It’s quick to install, so we’re in and out of the flats quite quickly, typically between two and three hours.”

Tristan Rhodes,
Triangle Fire Systems

BlazeMaster CPVC's faster, cleaner installation process was a major decision making factor. It can be installed to create a permanent, corrosion resistant, long lasting fixture in the home in minutes.

- Long term immunity to water based corrosion
- Resistance to scaling and bacterial growth
- Fast, strong joints using solvent cement
- Better flow rates (Hazen-Williams C Factor of 150. Steel has a starting C Factor of 120 and can go as low as 60)

Specifically, BlazeMaster CPVC has a number of advantages over steel that prepares installers for time sensitive and challenging retrofit applications:

- Fits into tighter spaces
- Faster and easier installation
- Quieter
- Limits environmental impact
- 84% lighter than steel for installation savings

EDUCATING RESIDENTS ABOUT FIRE SPRINKLERS

While the reality of fire sprinklers in the UK has largely been embraced, there are still those in the UK that do have doubts about the effectiveness of fire sprinklers in residences. For example, the common misconception is that all sprinklers in a single building trigger in the event of a fire.

Sprinklers trigger at the specific site of an outbreak of fire. Each sprinkler head contains a sensor bulb that only triggers release of water when it detects temperatures of 68°C or above.

“ Once they've seen the benefits of sprinklers, everybody is a hundred percent onboard, and sees how well they can protect, not only themselves, but other people around them. Sprinklers are not only there just to protect life, although that is the main purpose. They are there to protect assets as well as to protect the building owners from excessive costs or making good after a fire.”

Tristan Rhodes,
Triangle Fire Systems

LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SAVED

There is no better demonstration of fire sprinklers' ability to save lives than the examples we have already witnessed in Birmingham. Since this retrofit project began, lives have already been saved and the devastating effects of fire have already been prevented.

“ Of the systems we've put in so far, we've had five fires in blocks that have been protected. In all cases, there were no injuries and in all cases, there was no need to evacuate.”

Tristan Rhodes,
Triangle Fire Systems

As the retrofit project in Birmingham nears completion, there is still much more work to do across the UK to prevent fires and their devastating short term and long term effects.

“ The fire service attend fires within five minutes. In that time, the fire is growing. A sprinkler system will hold that fire back and hopefully even extinguish it, within that time, making it safer for crews to enter the building and making the return of the occupants to the flat much quicker.”

Phil Dolphin,
Station Commander - West Midlands Fire Service

Watch Video



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