



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Protecting Our Community

Group Commander Kevin O'Neill

Community Development Dept

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

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Maysfield Leisure Centre,
Belfast.
January 1984





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Harrow Court, Stevenage February 2005



news.bbc.co.uk

BBC NEWS | England | Beds/Bucks/Herts | Firefighter deaths inquest opens

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Firefighter deaths inquest opens

Two firefighters died trying to save a woman who had already been killed by fire fumes in a burning block of flats in Hertfordshire, an inquest has heard.

Jeff Wornham, 28, and Michael Miller, 26, died in February 2005 with Natalie Close, 32, at Harrow Court, Stevenage.

The men died of "thermal injury" after being overcome by heat

Mr Wornham died entangled in cables in the lobby outside the 14th floor flat and his colleague was later found in a bedroom near the body of Mrs Close.

The men died of "thermal injury" after being overcome by heat, the jury heard.

They had gone to fight a blaze on the 14th floor of the 17-storey block of flats, near Stevenage town centre.

The fire broke out in flat 85 after a small candle had been left on top of a television.

While trying to rescue the mother-of-two, the fire escalated, the men's breathing apparatus failed and they were quickly overcome by the intense heat and all three were killed.

An earlier report had said the two firefighters did not have access to water to tackle the fire because the outlet at the flats had been chained shut due to vandalism.

Stevenage Borough Council had informed the fire service but the first fire engine to arrive had not brought bolt cutters.

The report also said a risk assessment was not carried out before the fire officers went into the flats.

Coroner Edward Thomas said: "We are investigating the deaths of three people who died suddenly and unexpectedly in awful circumstances."

Mr Wornham, was from Royston, Hertfordshire, and Mr Miller was from Stevenage.

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Shirley Towers, Southampton, April





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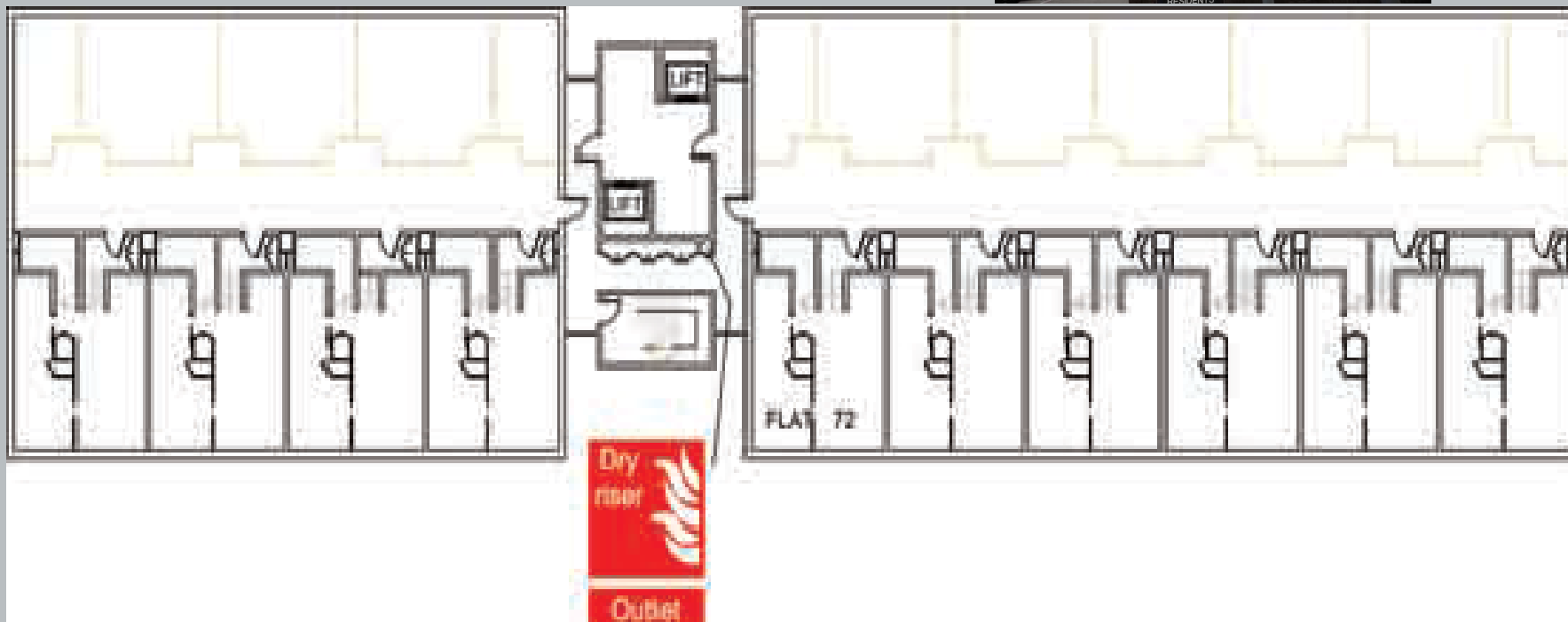
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Location of Flat 72 (ninth floor) within Shirley Towers (only up flats shown)



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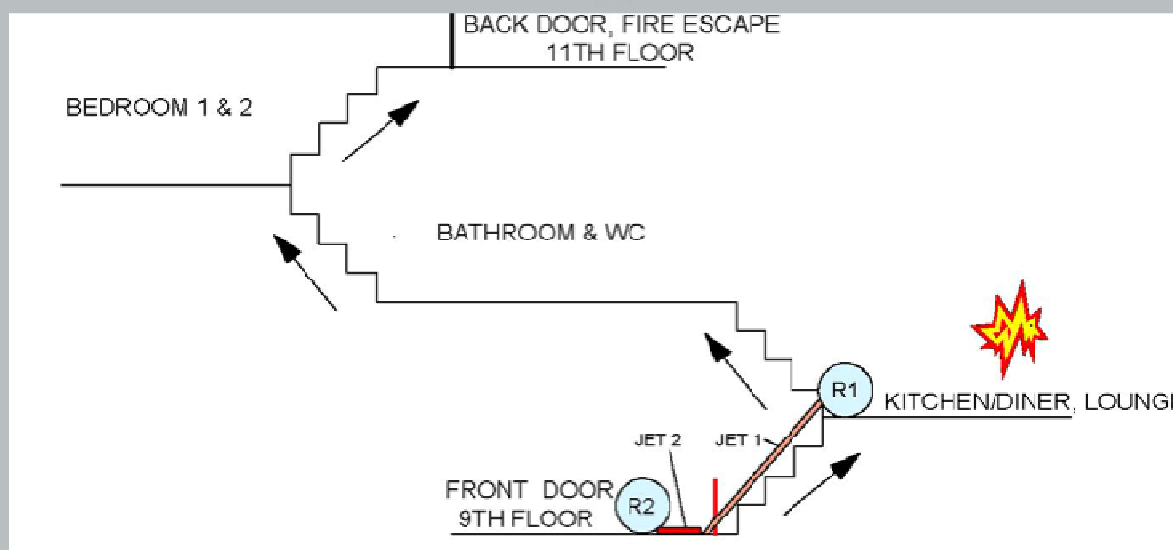
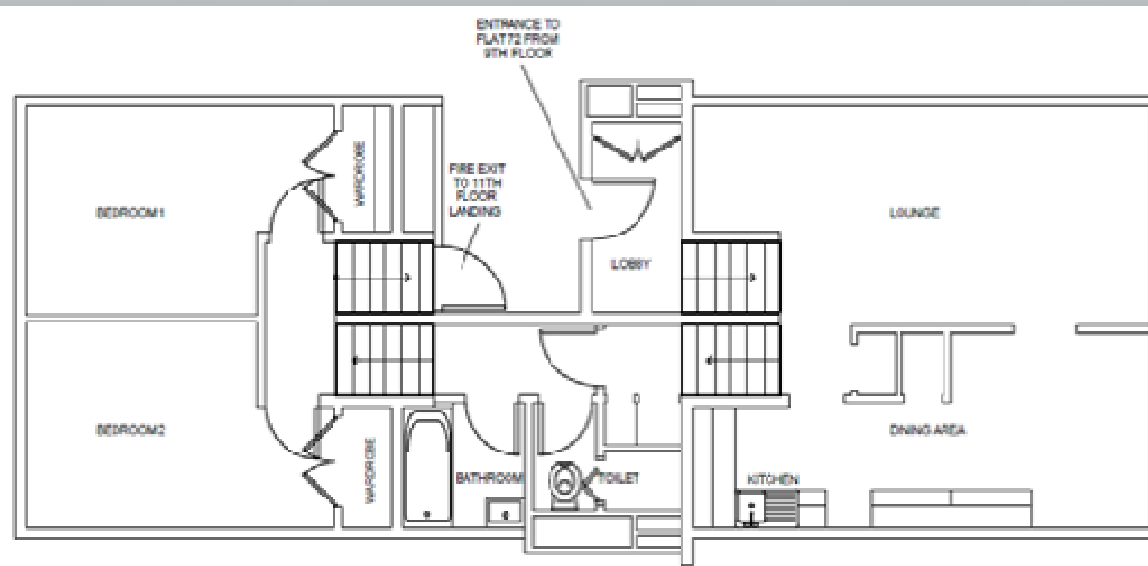


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Post incident photograph of flat sign denoting (by arrow) that Flat 72 is an 'up' flat. Note the relatively minor smoke damage (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



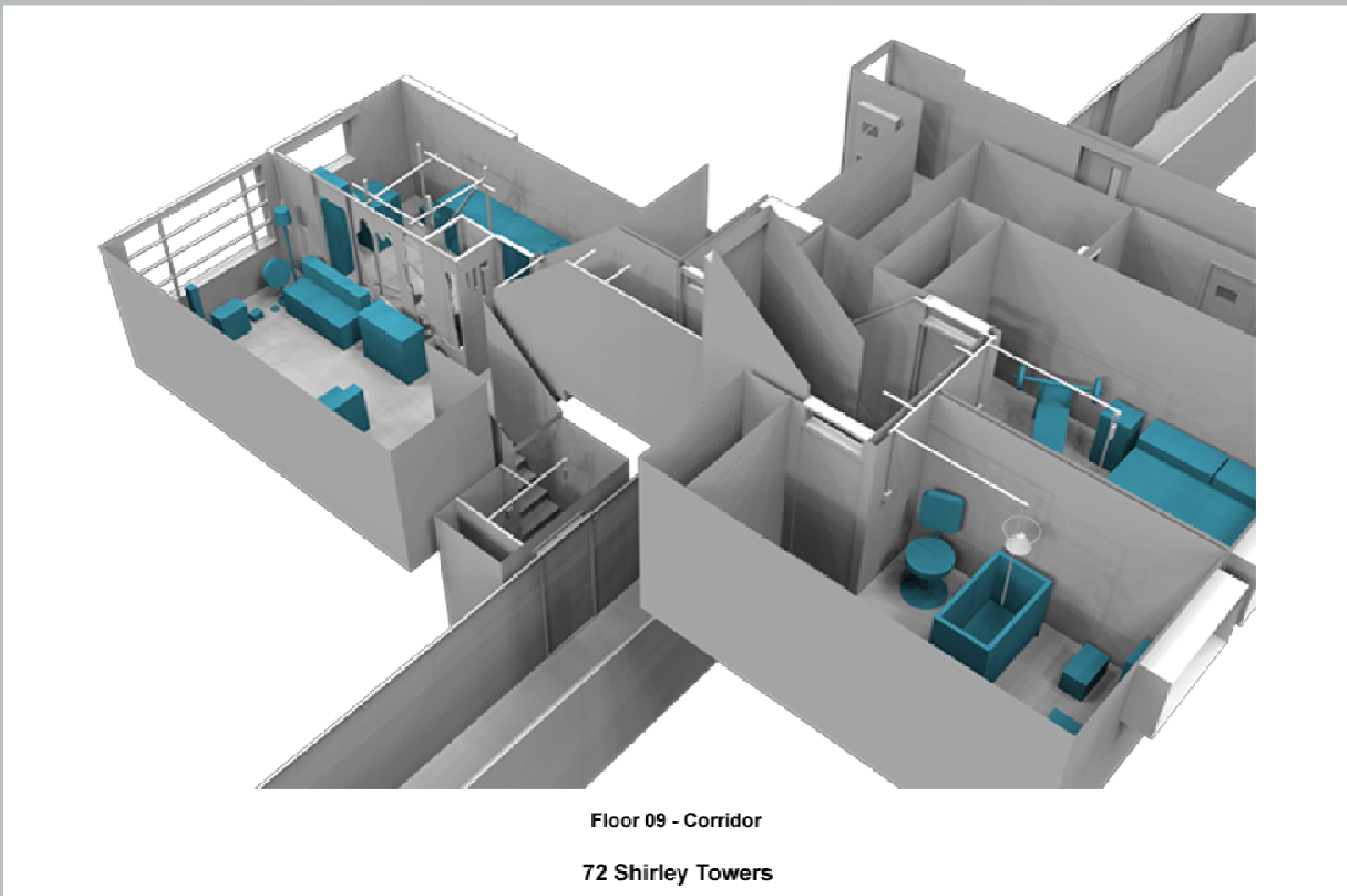
Plan of
Flat 72,
Shirley
Towers.

Note:
Access to
lobby is on
the ninth
floor with
the fire exit
emergency
door
exiting on
the
eleventh
floor.



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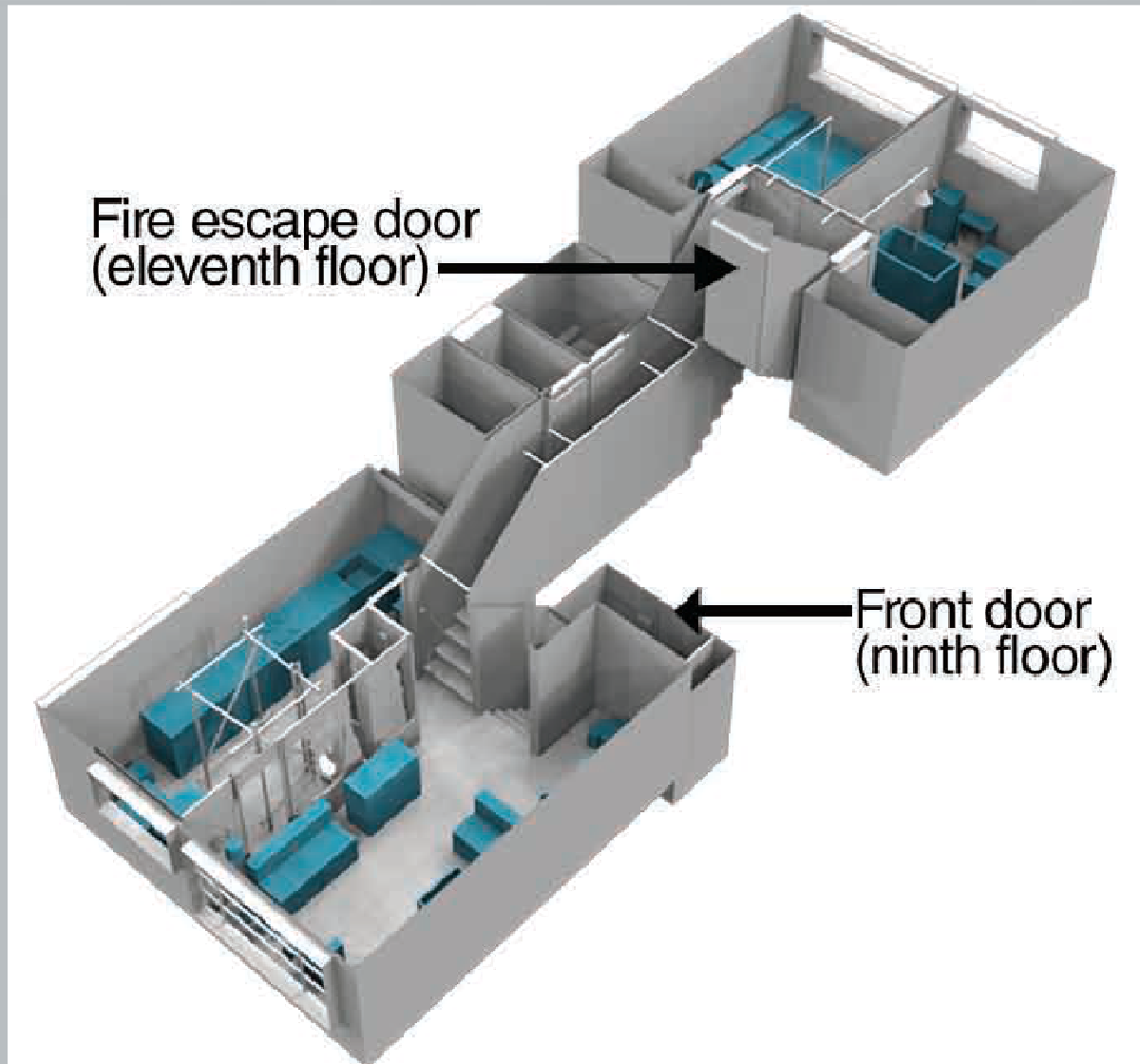
Floor 09 - Corridor

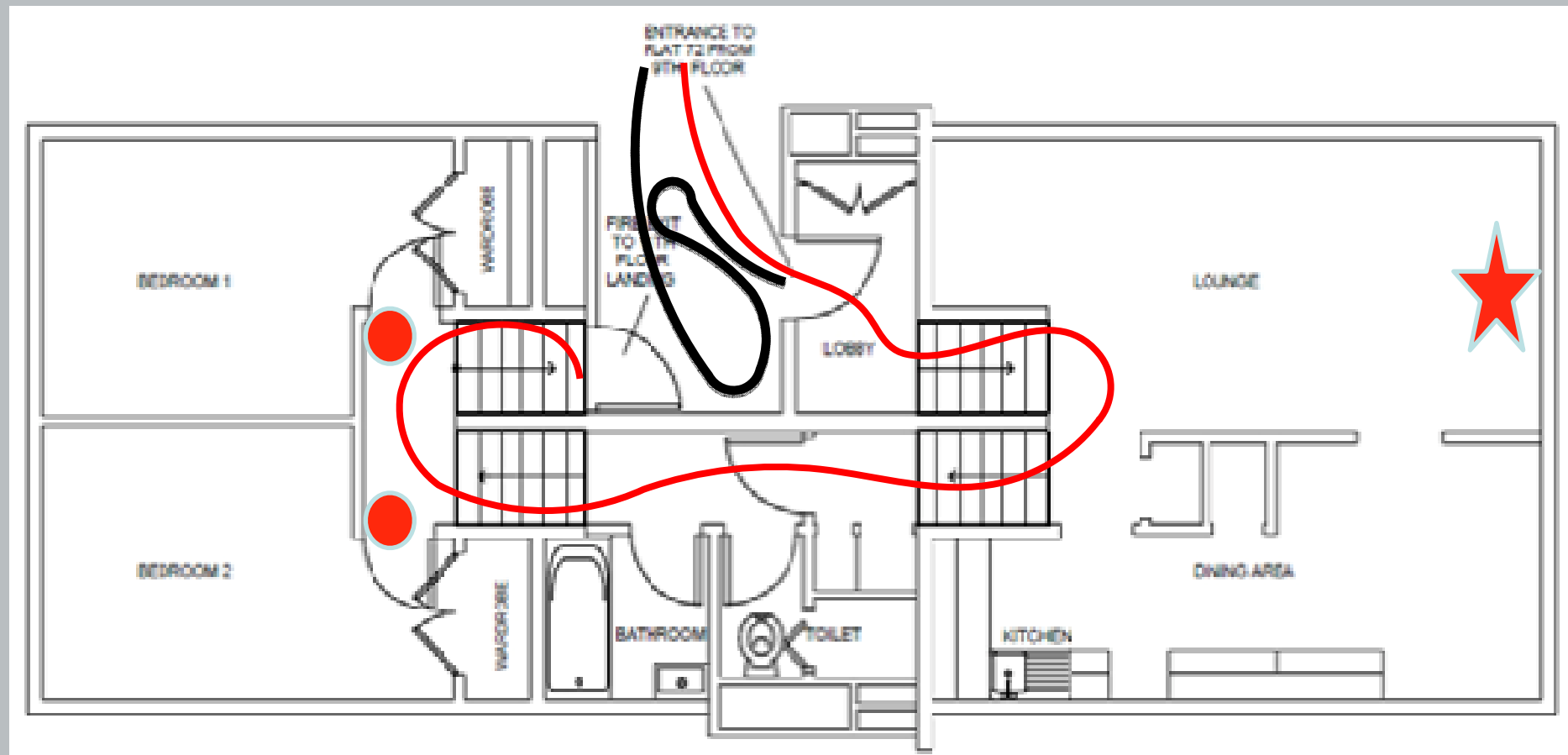
72 Shirley Towers



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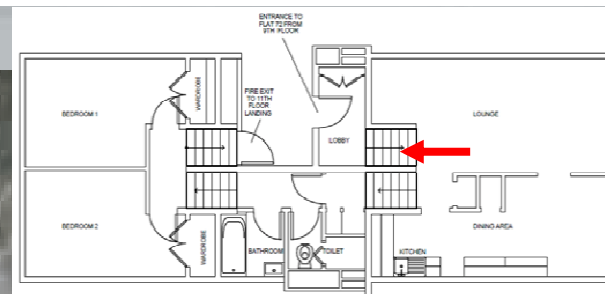
**Emergency
exits from
7th + 11th
floor flats**

Post incident photograph of ninth floor. The second door on the right is the entrance to Flat 72. The white panel doors on the left are the fire escape doors to other flats. Note the relatively minor smoke damage. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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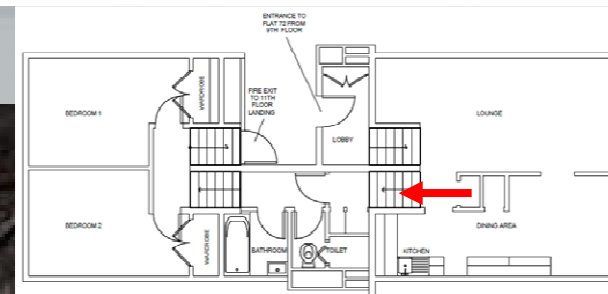


Post incident photograph from lounge level down stairs to entrance lobby. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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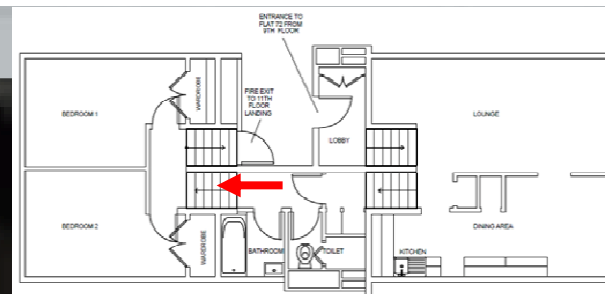


Post Incident photograph from lounge up stairs towards bathroom level.
Note entrance to kitchen on left. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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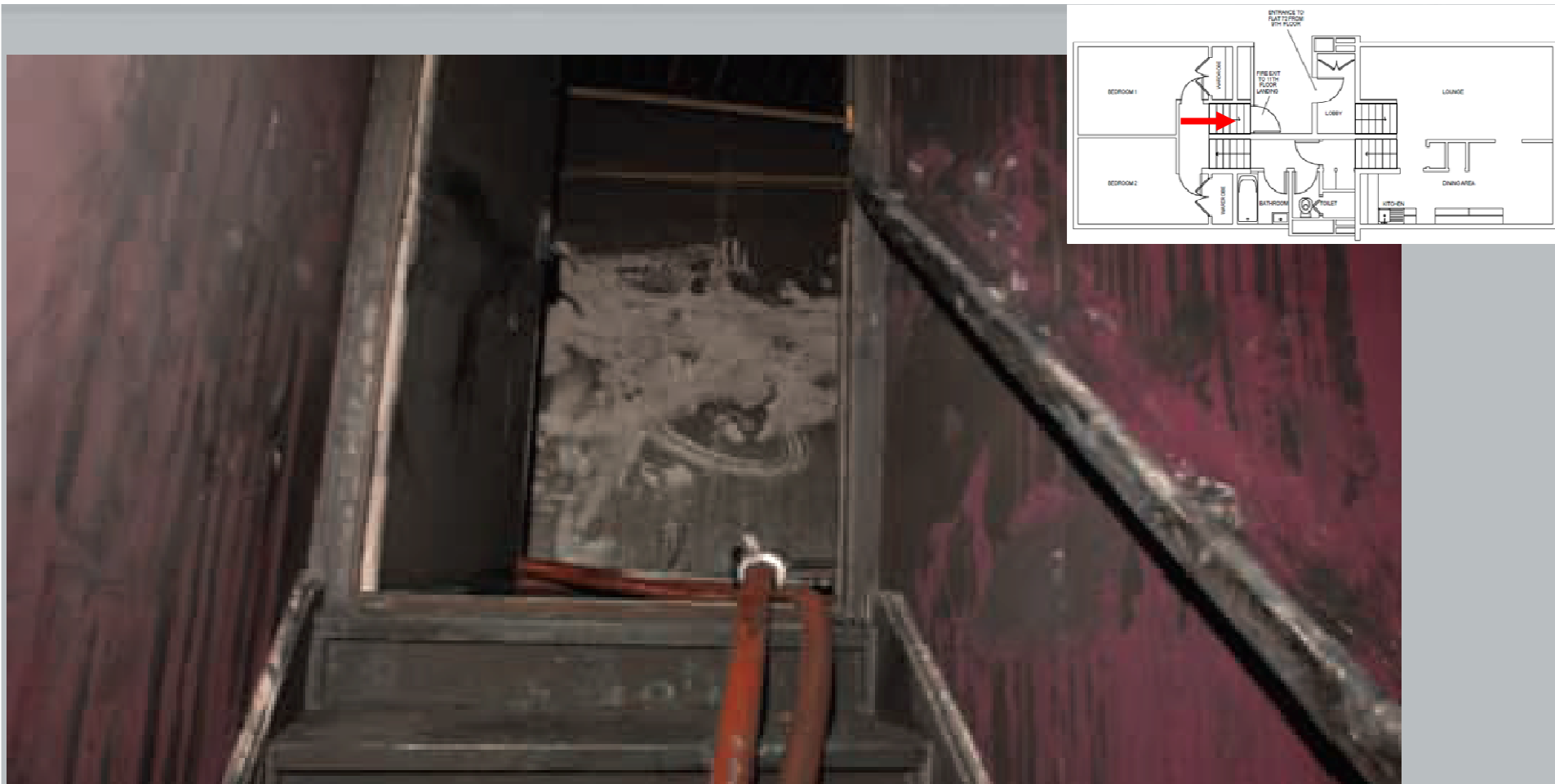


Post incident photograph looking up stairs from lounge window towards bathroom level. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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Post incident photograph up fire escape stairs from bedroom level towards eleventh floor fire escape door (open). (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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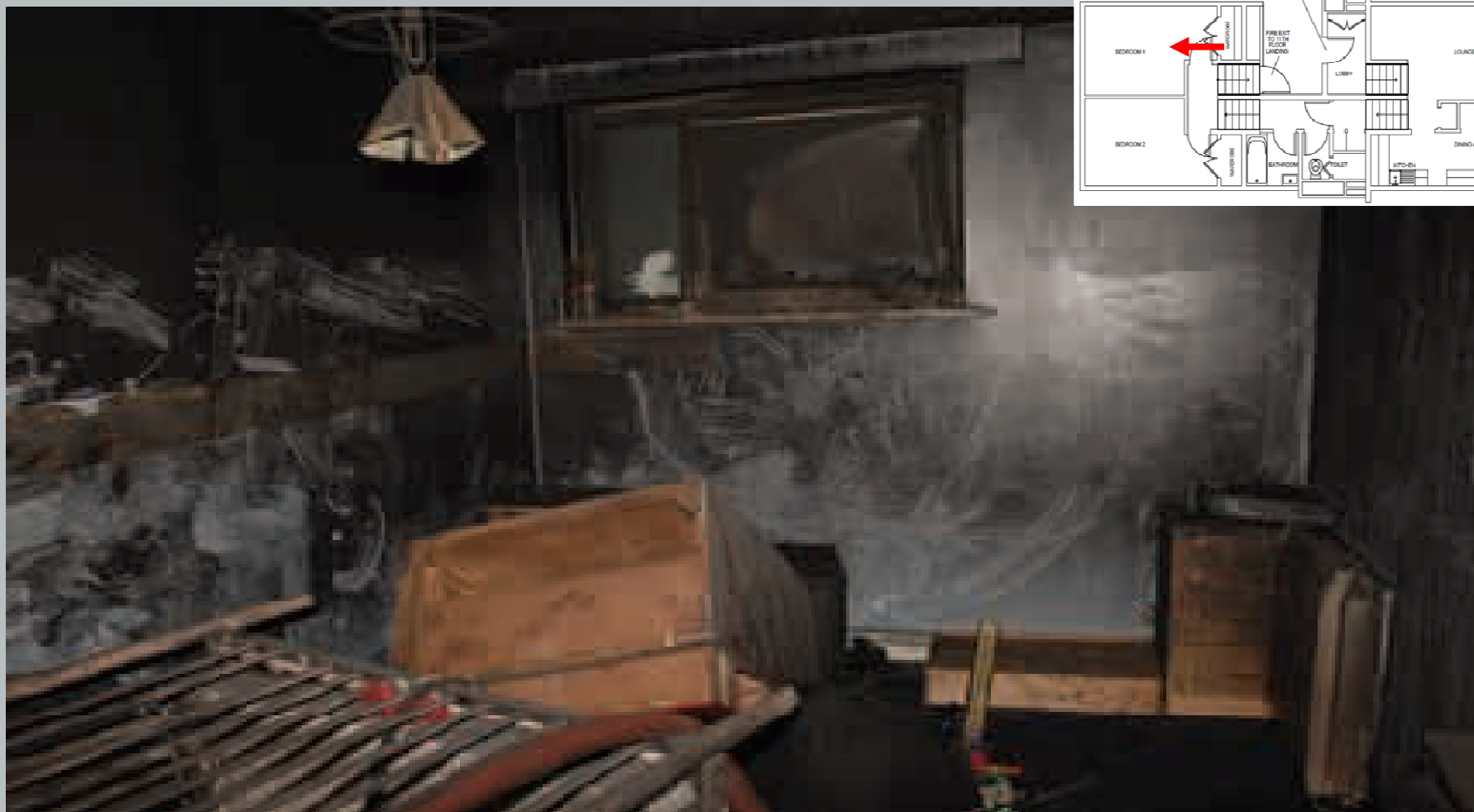
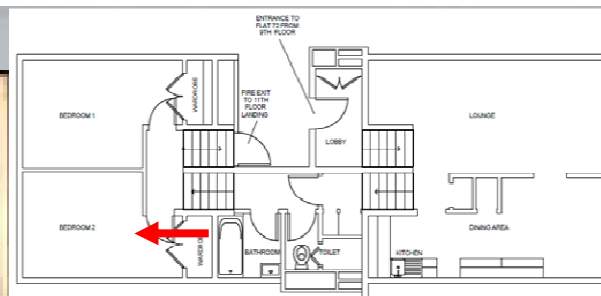


Fig 20: Post incident photograph of Bedroom 1 showing bedroom window
(Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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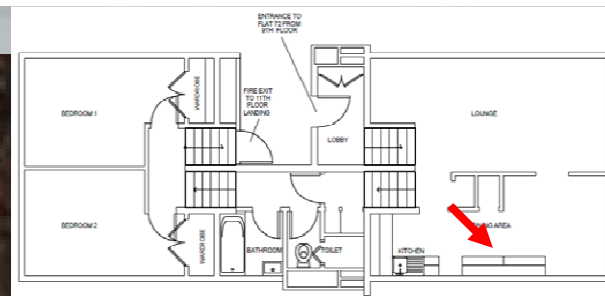


Post incident photograph of Bedroom 2 showing bedroom window
(Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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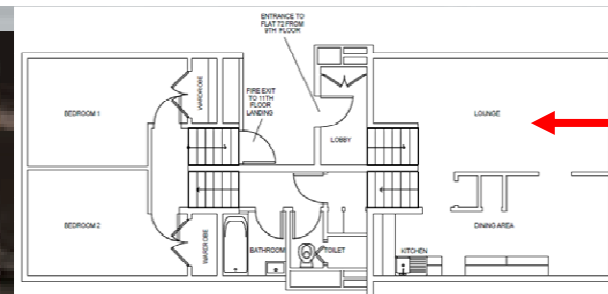


Post incident photograph of kitchen ceiling showing the fire damage to the concrete beams (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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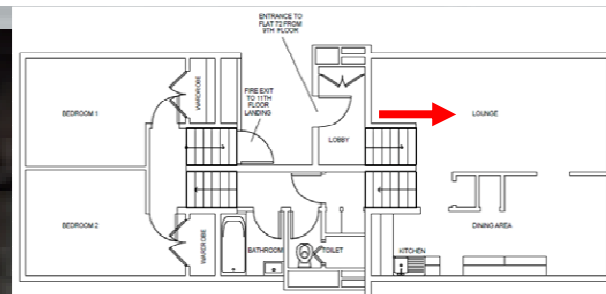


Post incident photograph of lounge from the window back towards staircase from entrance (middle) and the stairs leading up to the bedrooms (left hand side). (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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Post incident photograph from top of entrance stairs towards lounge window. (Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



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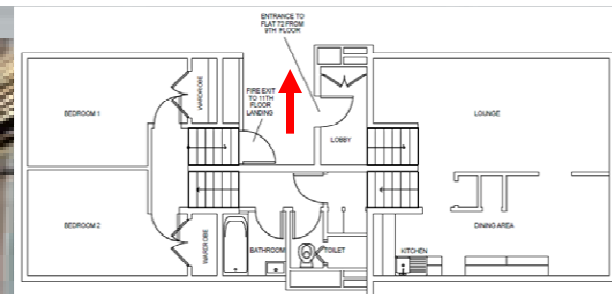


Fig 30: Post incident photograph showing conditions on the eleventh floor after the escape door from Flat 72 was left open. Note the displaced cables.
(Source: Hampshire Constabulary)



Coroners Recommendation: Harrow Court, 2005

- That Stevenage BC should remove all the surface mounted plastic trunking/conduit used to protect and support the Fire Alarm and Automatic Fire Detection System in the Common Areas of all their premises, and replace them with a method of cable support which as a minimum conforms to BS 5839- Part 1 : 2002; clause 26.2 (f:);
- Methods of cable support should be such that circuit integrity will not be reduced below that afforded by the cable used, and should withstand a similar temperature and duration to that of the cable, while maintaining adequate support.
- Note 7. In effect, this recommendation precludes the use of plastic cable clips, cable ties or trunking, where these products are the sole means of cable support.



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Coroners Recommendations: Shirley Towers, 2010

1. Remove all surface mounted plastic trunking/conduit used to protect and support the Fire Alarm and Automatic Fire Detection System in the Common Areas of all their premises, and replace them with a method of cable support which as a minimum conforms to BS 5839- Part 1 : 2002; clause 26.2 (f:)

2. It is recommended that Building Regulations are amended to ensure that all cables, not just fire alarm cables, are supported by fire-resistant cable supports. This could be achieved by an amendment to BS 7671 (2008) Institute of Electrical Engineers Wiring Regulations.



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Cable supports conforming with BS 5839-1:2002; clause 26.2 (f:)





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Coroners Recommendations: Shirley Towers





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CFOA
Chief Fire Officers
Association

The professional voice of the UK Fire & Rescue Service

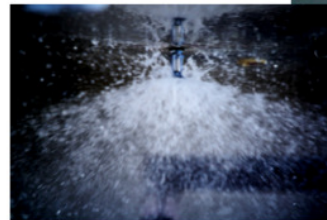
Toolkit



Fire Sprinkler Week
3rd - 9th February 2014



Toolkit
for participating
fire and rescue
services





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Coroners Recommendations: Shirley Towers

Social housing providers should be encouraged to consider the retro-fitting of sprinklers in all existing high rise buildings in excess of 30 metres in height, particularly those identified by Fire and Rescue Services as having complex designs that make fire-fighting more hazardous and/or difficult.

It is noted that current legislation requires that all newly built high rise buildings in excess of 30 metres in height must be fitted with sprinkler systems.



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Could this happen within Northern Ireland?





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15:29
bbc.co.uk

BBC News - B&M Bargains Belfast shc

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Northern Ireland Politics

18 October 2013 Last updated at 17:56

B&M Bargains Belfast shop fire extinguished



The fire extensively damaged the B&M Bargains shop in Rosemary Street

A fire that badly damaged a shop in Belfast city centre has been put out.

About 40 firefighters were sent to tackle the blaze at B&M Bargains shop in Rosemary Street after it was spotted by police at about 05:10 BST on Friday.

Firefighters managed to contain the blaze to the first floor of the three-storey building and prevent it spreading to neighbouring shops.

A spokesperson said firefighters "worked in challenging conditions" to bring it under control.

The Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) spokesperson added: "At the height of the incident 10 fire appliances, two aerial platforms, a command support unit and 40 firefighters were involved in tackling the blaze."

"The cordon has now been reviewed and members of the public and business owners can now access the arcade."

"At this stage it's too early to determine the cause of the fire and an investigation will begin in due course."

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