



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2018–2024 UK Fire Statistics reveal high Efficacy of Water Mist Systems

Hamburg / Helsinki, 14th May 2025. Analysing over 4,000 fire incidents in England (2018–2024), the data from the UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government shows water mist systems have controlled fires in 95.3 per cent of cases and extinguished them in 58.6 per cent —compared to 90.7 per cent and 27.6 per cent, respectively, for sprinklers. In residential settings, both systems performed strongly, with near-identical extinguishment rates (around 37 per cent) and control rates of 95.8 per cent for mist and 91.4 per cent for sprinklers. While extinguishment is not the primary design goal of most suppression systems — mist or sprinklers — these figures offer useful insights into their real effectiveness.

“This confirms what professionals already know—well-designed suppression systems save lives,” said Max Lakkonen, *President of the International Water Mist Association (IWMA)*. “Water mist’s edge in performance, combined with its low water usage, makes it a powerful fire safety solution.”

Both technologies demonstrated high reliability, with system fault rates below 3 per cent (2.9 per cent for mist, 1.9 per cent for sprinklers). Failures were mostly linked to fires starting outside the protected area or known faults. Systems installed in the fire’s room of origin were far more effective — underlining the importance of proper design and coverage.

IWMA is addressing reliability further through updated guidelines and training initiatives focused on installation and maintenance quality. “This is good news for the entire fire protection sector,” added Lakkonen. “Both systems work. With smarter design and better training, performance will only keep improving.”



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IWMA remains committed to evidence-based fire safety and will continue supporting industry-wide improvements in system performance and standards.

Referred data is publicly available from the UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/primary-fires-in-premises-with-sprinklers-or-water-mist-safety-systems-2018-19-to-2023-24?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4aa2abb1-2604-4d6e-86b0-59dc04765e29&utm_content=immediately

Press contact:

Bettina McDowell
tel.: +49 (0) 174 301 3878
e-mail: mcdowell@iwma.net
web: www.iwma.net