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Why schools need sprinkler systems

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with maintained
sprinkler systems

In 2005 alone, school fires in the UK cost the country an estimated £67 million. Yet in the USA, with five times as many schools, fire costs are around £50 million. Why? The answer is simple: most American schools have sprinkler systems, while in the UK, there are fewer than 200 systems in around 30,000 schools.

Saving lives, saving money

The argument for installing sprinklers in schools is compelling. In fact, in the UK, there have been no reported deaths from fire in buildings with maintained sprinkler systems.

There are also substantial cost savings for local authorities. Schools without sprinklers are finding that insuring their premises is increasingly difficult. However, Zurich Municipal significantly reduces fire insurance premiums for schools with sprinklers, while removing our typical excess* of £100,000 for local education authorities.

The savings don't end there.

- sprinkler systems reduce fire brigade involvement.
- avoid contaminated water run-off.
- use around 5% of the water of one fire service hose.
- allow affected schools to return on the same day.
- help reduce building design costs.

Counting the full cost of fire

Fire's devastating effects spread much further than the local authority's budget. It disrupts the lives of pupils and school staff, forcing them to retreat to temporary accommodation for up to three years, while the local authority must divert resources to deal with the aftermath. Communities also suffer, lacking accommodation for night classes, local events, weddings and more.

The problem compounds for school pupils undergoing examinations, while schoolwork, coursework, submissions, and a lifetime of teaching notes and aids are lost forever. Naturally, such loss can prove immensely stressful for pupils, teachers and parents.

Even worse, parents may move their children to neighbouring schools, which means the damaged school becomes less viable.

For more information call
0870 241 8050
Or email
info@zurichmunicipal.com


* Excess (or deductible) is the specified initial amount of a claim that the insured has to contribute. If a claim is less than the excess stated in the policy no payment is made by the insurers.

All going to plan

All too often, safety constraints conflict with architects' visions for new schools. Facing so many safety considerations, designers frequently compromise their ideals for a secure alternative.

However, when included early in a school's plans, sprinkler systems provide a wealth of design freedoms and cost savings while allowing schools to meet and exceed their safety requirements. For example, sprinkler systems offer architects the opportunity to:

- adapt compartmentation requirements
- increase travel distances
- decrease fire-resistance periods to structure elements
- change the standards, number, location and position of fire-resisting screens and doorsets
- adapt layouts to meet school's exact needs
- improve escape provision, for example, introducing phased evacuations
- enhance provision for people with disabilities
- consider different surface finishes and displays, etc.
- propose different sizes for stairs
- choose internal and external fire brigade access
- provide for community use or partial occupancy.



All Local Education Authorities (LEAs) face an excess on school fire risks. However, installing sprinklers means this excess is removed and the fire rate is discounted.

Fire outbreaks in schools can leave authorities, pupils and their families counting huge personal and monetary costs. That's why, at Zurich, we believe it makes perfect sense for local education authorities to place sprinkler systems at the heart of all their school design plans. We also run a successful school anti-arson initiative. For more information please visit www.zurichmunicipal.com

Because change happenz™

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