

Tower Block Fire Safety

UPS Sprinkler Power Protection



A standby power solution was installed in four tower blocks to keep the sprinkler system running and enhance their fire protection.

UPS Systems plc were recently contacted by a fire safety engineering company. They request anonymity to protect their clients. The fire safety company have been designing, installing and maintaining fire protection solutions for over 20 years. This ranges from small domestic installations through to complex residential properties.

With a lot of recent focus on ensuring resident safety, they wanted to have UPS systems in place to ensure the sprinkler systems were kept online if there was any loss of power.

Four tower blocks safety systems were being updated with all the latest safety regulations and advisories in mind. The most essential part of this was the sprinkler system for the common areas.

Sprinkler systems are a key component to the safety precautions which ensure the inhabitants are safe in the event of a fire. These systems are autonomous and can be released both manually or automatically.

With that in mind, it is essential to provide a mechanism whereby the sprinkler system can function correctly, even in the event of a mains failure. The correct UPS would have to be sourced, as well as any other equipment that might be required.

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“Fire Protection is an essential part of any public buildings management. Without it, it is harder to get everyone out safely. A UPS supported sprinkler system adds an additional layer of redundancy against the worse case scenario.”

Jack Ogden | Commercial Director at UPS Systems plc

UPS Systems plc, the UK’s biggest independent supplier of standby power solutions, were contacted to ensure the correct power protection was installed, which began with a site survey on all four of the sites.

This began with a site survey at each of the four locations. Once the surveys were completed, UPS Systems plc recommended the Riello UPS MST 30 as the ideal solution for all four sites.

This UPS system was capable of supporting the sprinkler system in the event of a power cut, as well as easily fitting into the existing infrastructure that was already at all four locations. As per the customer’s request, external battery packs were provided to give each UPS 60 minutes autonomy time.

In addition, an external wrap around bypass switch was installed. This allows full availability of the sprinkler system during the yearly service visits for the UPS system and allows for ease of replacement, when the UPS enters the end of its life in 12 to 15 years. The combination of these two pieces of equipment allows for complete piece of mind for the customer.

With the customer satisfied with the proposed solution, UPS Systems plc’s engineers were scheduled to carry out the installation. Each Riello UPS MST 30 was installed with its associated maintenance panel and fully commissioned on the same day. This ensured that the tower blocks, and their residents had a fully backed up sprinkler system as soon as possible.



With the new UPS systems and maintenance bypasses installed, the sprinkler systems in all the four tower blocks are now secured against power cuts.

Sprinkler systems are an essential part of all public buildings, from offices and manufacturing facilities to apartment blocks. Ensuring they work when people need them is a key part of fire protection.