

Freedom of Information request reference number: 7752.1

Date of response: 09 August 2023

Request:

200 electric-powered London 'buses (all with lithium batteries) are stabled in an underground depot.

- *Is there any known means of fire suppression in such restricted underground conditions?*
- *What minimum separation is required between tower blocks to allow access by high-reach fire appliances?*

Response:

Please see our response to each of your queries in turn below:

- *Is there any known means of fire suppression in such restricted underground conditions?*

BS EN 12845:2015 Fixed firefighting systems - automatic sprinkler systems - design, installation and maintenance would be reviewed for any suppression system installed underground using a Qualitative Design Review under BS 7974:2019.

The BS provides a framework for the application of fire safety engineering principles to the design of buildings.

This information is published online and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.bsigroup.com/globalassets/localfiles/en-gb/built-environment/bs-7974-fire-safety-brochure-web.pdf>

The only other document that may assist will be the 'Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) T0194 – Covered car parks - fire safety guidance for electric vehicles'. However this currently applies to cars and small vehicles and there is not any affirmative guidance for this type of technology yet.

This information is also published online and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covered-car-parks-fire-safety-guidance-for-electric-vehicles>

- *What minimum separation is required between tower blocks to allow access by high-reach fire appliances?*

The NFCC (National Fire Chiefs Council) publish detailed national guidance in relation to vehicle access.

This can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.ukfrs.com/foundation-knowledge/fires-buildings-building-research-establishment-supplementary-information?bundle=section&id=16847&parent=16848>.

At the bottom of this web page, further information can be found in the associated document 'Approved Document B Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings':

This can be accessed via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937932/ADB_Vol2_Buildings_other_than_dwellings_2019_edition_inc_2020_amendments.pdf

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#).