

Press Release
19th November 2010

SE Controls Questions Fire Safety of High Rise Blocks

A BBC television programme has called into question the fire safety of some of the UK's high rise tower blocks. It is a subject SE Controls feels needs urgent attention.

Inside Out West Midlands reported on possible fire safety failures in recently refurbished blocks within the West Midlands area. The main argument of the programme was around the Decent Homes Programme of improving the properties. Homes are being modernised within the programme to offer better living standards and with increased levels of insulation are, as a result, becoming more environmentally friendly. But it seems fire safety is being overlooked.

In 2009, the 'Lakanal House' blaze in London claimed six lives, some of these young children, and while an enquiry into what went wrong is yet to be held, SE Controls asks "Are our high rise tower blocks really safe in a fire?" Government has become so concerned that officials have written to all Local Authorities to explain the need for improvement in fire safety provisions.

One recently refurbished property was visited by the BBC programme and with a fire officer problems were clearly identified. At a total cost of some £4.7million, £40,000 per flat, fire safety was still in question.

[SE Controls](#) argues that there is an urgent need to review all the UK's high rise living accommodation, 224 tower blocks in the West Midlands alone, to determine that safe levels of fire safety and [smoke control](#) are adequately provided. This inspection should be initiated by independent inspectors and cannot begin too soon. If the confusion of a city councillor interviewed on the programme is systemic within the authority, urgent action is required.

[SE Controls](#) offers a complete service of design, installation, commissioning and [maintenance](#) of smoke and natural ventilation control systems for any building. Visit the website at www.secontrols.com for further information. To discuss a requirement with [SE Controls](#), or request a copy of the corporate brochure, please call the head office in Lichfield on 01543 443060.

Ends

A link to the programme on BBC iPlayer:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00vkl8w/Inside_Out_West_Midlands_25_10_2010/