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### **Bridlington blaze highlights need for built-in fire protection**

At 1am last night a fire ripped through a row of houses on a residential estate in Bridlington, East Yorkshire. "The fire started at the back of the house...then spread upwards and raced across the roofs of neighbouring homes," said Steve Topham of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service.

Government building regulations Approved Document B (AD B) require fire separation in rows of houses, so in theory last night's blaze should never have taken hold of the houses as it did. David Sugden, Chairman of the Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF) states, "When houses are built in rows, dividing walls should go through the roofs to ensure a fire is contained to the point of origin." So what happened?

"It's up to Fire Inspectors to establish the reasons and possible blame for the fire spreading at Bridlington," continues David. "But this blaze highlights the need for built in fire safety. Buildings must be erected to meet, and preferably exceed the guidance in AD B, and workmanship by contractors has to comply with these standards."

**END**

**180 words**

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**Editors' notes:** The Passive Fire Protection Federation (PFPF - [www.pfpf.org](http://www.pfpf.org)) is dedicated to growing awareness and giving advice on fire protection, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO). Our members include the Chief Fire Officers Association, the Department of Communities and Local Government (previously the ODPM), the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the Building Research Establishment among others. Our website carries advice on what to check and best practice in all passive fire protection measures