# Firefighters tackle two major rubbish fires in Birmingham within hours



On the afternoon of May 13, firefighters were called to tackle a dramatic blaze in Rotton Park, Birmingham, where a pile of rubbish, including old settees and railway sleepers, ignited in Moillett Street Car Park. The flames rapidly spread towards an exempt hostel on Gillott Road, creating a towering column of black smoke that was visible across the area. Fortunately, three men were able to escape unharmed, although action was taken to ensure the safety of a 74-year-old neighbour whose home was engulfed by flames and who suffered damage to his car parked nearby. The road was sealed off while emergency services worked tirelessly to bring the situation under control, with the area reopening shortly after 5pm.

This incident was one of two similar fires to break out within hours of each other in the vicinity. Later that evening, another fire was reported at a park off Winson Street. Fire crews, responding promptly to the scene at around 8.50pm, were equipped with three jets to combat the blaze affecting timber and rubbish. The teams from Aston, Perry Barr, and Smethwick worked efficiently, utilising thermal imaging cameras to ensure no hotspots remained before departing just after 9.40pm. It remains unclear whether the two incidents are linked, with West Midlands Police currently investigating.

Such events contribute to an ongoing concern regarding waste disposal and safety in urban areas. Recent reports have highlighted a series of significant fires across the West Midlands, often involving recycling materials or scrap yards. For instance, just days prior, firefighters faced a major incident involving 15 tonnes of recycling materials burning on open land near Alum Rock Road. Residents were advised to keep windows and doors shut due to the potential hazards posed by smoke in these situations.

Similar instances have been recorded throughout the year, including a large fire at a recycling plant that required over 70 firefighters to contain. These ongoing occurrences underscore a pressing need for addressing fire safety concerning rubbish disposal, especially in densely populated areas where the risk of both fire spread and harm to residents is considerable.

The persistence of these events has led to calls for increased scrutiny of waste management practices. Firefighters have responded robustly to numerous blazes, yet the question remains as to how to effectively mitigate these risks in the future. Continuing to raise public awareness about the dangers associated with improperly disposed rubbish is essential, particularly as incidents like those seen in Rotton Park serve as stark reminders of the hazards that can arise from seemingly innocuous refuse.

Residents and officials alike hope for a thorough investigation into these recent fires, as well as reassurance regarding future precautions. As urban areas contend with the dual challenges of waste management and fire safety, the collaboration between emergency services and local authorities will be crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-2: [[1]](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/fire-crews-battle-two-blazes-31643877)
2. Paragraphs 3-4: [[2]](https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2023/05/14/firefighters-battle-scrap-yard-and-recycling-blazes-in-birmingham/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-49057713)
3. Paragraph 5: [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-63525979), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-65797054.amp)
4. Paragraph 6: [[5]](https://www.wbrc.com/2023/09/30/birmingham-fire-rescue-battling-fire-west-birmingham/), [[6]](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/kitts-green-fire-live-50-27125420)

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## Bibliography

* <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/fire-crews-battle-two-blazes-31643877> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2023/05/14/firefighters-battle-scrap-yard-and-recycling-blazes-in-birmingham/> - Firefighters in the West Midlands responded to two significant fires over the weekend. The first occurred at a scrap yard in Ward End at 2:30 am on Saturday, where crews worked tirelessly to control the blaze. Later that afternoon, five fire crews were deployed to tackle a fire involving 15 tonnes of recycling materials on open land off Alum Rock Road near Langton Road. Residents were advised to keep doors and windows shut, and motorists were urged to avoid the area due to the smoke and potential hazards. ([expressandstar.com](https://www.expressandstar.com/news/local-hubs/birmingham/2023/05/14/firefighters-battle-scrap-yard-and-recycling-blazes-in-birmingham/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-49057713> - A large fire erupted at a derelict factory in Winson Green, Birmingham, sending smoke across the city's skyline. Over 70 firefighters from West Midlands Fire Service tackled the blaze, which was believed to involve recycling materials. The fire broke out shortly before 12:40 BST, and crews worked through the night to bring it under control. No injuries were reported, but nearby residents were advised to keep windows and doors closed due to the smoke. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-49057713?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-63525979> - An estimated 300 tonnes of scrap metal were consumed in a fire at a recycling centre on Bordesley Green Road in Birmingham. Eight crews from West Midlands Fire Service responded to the blaze, which was reported at about 4:45 GMT. The fire service confirmed there had been no reported injuries and urged people in the Bordesley Green and Saltley areas to keep their doors and windows closed and to avoid the area. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-63525979?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.wbrc.com/2023/09/30/birmingham-fire-rescue-battling-fire-west-birmingham/> - Birmingham Fire and Rescue officials responded to a large trash fire at Lomb Avenue and 17th Street West. The fire started around 4 p.m. in a pile of garbage, leading to evacuations, power outages, and traffic delays in the area. Witnesses reported flames shooting over buildings and transformers blowing several times. Battalion Chief Michael Israel stated that crews were already en route when calls started coming in. ([wbrc.com](https://www.wbrc.com/2023/09/30/birmingham-fire-rescue-battling-fire-west-birmingham/?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/kitts-green-fire-live-50-27125420> - Up to 50 firefighters battled a fire in a flat above shops on Lea Village Road in Kitts Green. Nine crews were called to the incident just before 4 a.m. on Thursday, June 15. The fire affected 30% of the roof space and 50% of the first floor of the property. Residents were evacuated from nearby homes, and a 50-metre evacuation zone was set up for public safety. The cause of the blaze has not yet been confirmed. ([birminghammail.co.uk](https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/kitts-green-fire-live-50-27125420?utm_source=openai))
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-65797054.amp> - About 60 firefighters tackled a large scrap yard fire in Birmingham's Aston area. Ten fire crews were sent to Cheston Road at about 11:00 BST on Friday, where 150 tonnes of scrap metal were ablaze. Nearby residents were urged to shut windows and doors due to the smell and smoke in the area. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire is believed to be accidental. ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-65797054.amp?utm_source=openai))