# Bicester community mourns firefighters and civilian lost in devastating Motion fire



The tragic fire at Bicester Motion has left the local community grappling with grief and shock as details emerge about the devastating incident that resulted in the loss of two firefighters and a civilian. Jennie Logan, 30, from the Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service, and Martyn Sadler, 38, associated with both Oxfordshire and London Fire Brigades, were among those who perished while battling the blaze. David Chester, aged 57, a resident of Bicester, was also reported dead, magnifying the sense of loss felt across the area.

Local residents have recounted their harrowing experiences as the flames engulfed the site. Eyewitness accounts paint a vivid picture of the unfolding disaster, with neighbours describing overwhelming scenes of fire and smoke. Tobias Nesbitt, just six years old, expressed palpable fear, likening his experience to his classroom lessons on the Great Fire of London. “If the wind changed direction, my house could have burned down,” he said, highlighting the community's anxiety regarding the potential spread of the fire.

Many residents were not only alarmed by the intensity of the blaze but also by the possible health implications due to smoke containing potentially hazardous materials. Julie Stocker noted the concern surrounding asbestos, recalling the advice given to the community to seal windows and doors. The anxiety was palpable, with Des White, a local farmer, suffocated by the smoke, reporting pain that made breathing difficult.

Residents were further shaken by explosive sounds accompanying the fire; Robert Floyd, 75, described hearing loud bangs as he witnessed the smoke rising towards the sky. The massive inferno drew many from their homes, eager to witness the unfolding events, yet equally worried about the safety of their own properties. “It’s a great loss,” lamented one resident, reflecting on the significance of the historic hangar built in 1926 that faced imminent destruction.

As the flames began to quell, attention turned to the community's response to this tragic event. Specially trained family liaison officers have been dispatched to support the grieving families, ensuring they receive the necessary help during this difficult time. Meanwhile, local residents continue to express their solidarity, with many hoping for the preservation of what remains and the eventual revival of the Bicester Motion complex.

In light of recent tragedies, including a significant gas explosion at a recycling plant in Cassington, which was ignited by a lightning strike, the community is acutely aware of the risks associated with industrial facilities. This incident had caused widespread concern but fortunately resulted in no casualties, contrasting the dire circumstances now facing Bicester.

As investigations into both incidents continue, community leaders are advocating for enhanced safety measures to prevent future catastrophes. The recent spate of fires, alongside local objections to proposed evening events, reflects an emerging pattern of rising anxiety about safety and environmental impacts in the area.

This sense of urgency aligns with discussions around fire safety and preparedness. Local fire departments are urged to consider deeper preventative measures and community engagement strategies to ensure that such a tragedy does not recur.

The community of Bicester now stands united in mourning, reassessing its relationship with the surrounding industrial sites, while holding on to the memories of those lost in the fire at Bicester Motion.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 7
2. Paragraphs 3, 4
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 5
7. Paragraphs 6, 7

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25169452.bicester-fire-local-eyewitness-speak-motion-blaze/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25169452.bicester-fire-local-eyewitness-speak-motion-blaze/?ref=rss> - Residents near Bicester Motion shared their reactions to a tragic fire that resulted in the deaths of two firefighters and a civilian. The incident caused widespread concern, with locals expressing worries about the fire's proximity and potential health impacts due to smoke and possible asbestos. Eyewitnesses described the scene as overwhelming, with large flames and explosions visible from their homes. The community is now focused on supporting the affected families and addressing the aftermath of the disaster.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2023-10-03/recycling-plant-explosion-described-as-ball-of-flames-and-mini-atomic-blast> - A lightning strike caused a gas explosion at a food waste recycling plant in Cassington, Oxfordshire, leading to a massive fireball visible for miles. Residents reported hearing a loud bang and seeing an orange glow in the sky. Eyewitnesses described the scene as a 'ball of flames' and a 'mini atomic explosion.' The incident prompted emergency services to respond swiftly, and the company confirmed no injuries occurred. The community expressed shock and concern over the event.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/10/03/fireball-explosion-gas-oxford-lightning-fire-cassington/> - A lightning strike triggered a gas explosion at the Severn Trent Green Power Facility in Cassington, Oxfordshire, creating a massive fireball that illuminated the night sky. Residents reported a brilliant white light followed by a huge crack, with the sky pulsating orange. The explosion caused significant damage to the facility, with three of the five tanks at the plant being damaged. Emergency services responded promptly, and no injuries were reported. The incident raised concerns about the safety of such facilities during severe weather events.
5. <https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/23846248.barn-fire-near-bicester-sends-heavy-plume-smoke/> - A barn fire in Arncot, near Bicester, sent a heavy plume of smoke into the air. The fire was reported around 9 am and was tackled by three crews from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The fire was under control by 2 pm, but not entirely extinguished. There were no injuries or rescues needed. Firefighters advised nearby homeowners to close their windows and doors while the smoke was still in the air. The cause of the fire is under investigation.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c30l09zn1jlo> - A 51-year-old man was taken to hospital with minor burns after a vehicle fire spread into a house on Haydock Road in Bicester. About a dozen firefighters responded to the blaze, which caused severe smoke damage to the property. The injured man was also treated for smoke inhalation. Nearby residents reported seeing smoke billowing from the house and contacted emergency services. Investigations into the exact cause of the fire are ongoing.
7. <https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/24612110.bicester-heritage-residents-object-plans-hold-events-9pm/> - Over 35 residents have objected to plans for Bicester Heritage to host events as late as 9 pm. The proposal includes circuit activity from 9 am to 5 pm, with a 30-minute overrun period, and additional activity between 6 pm and 9 pm on 'Category A' days. Residents expressed concerns about noise pollution affecting their quality of life, with some describing the potential noise as unbearable. The application is under consideration by Cherwell District Council.