# Three lives lost in devastating Bicester Motion fire including local hero and two firefighters



A devastating fire erupted at Bicester Motion, a former RAF base in Oxfordshire, resulting in the tragic loss of three lives, including that of a local businessman, Dave Chester, and two firefighters, Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler. The blaze, which began around 6:39 PM on Thursday evening, was so intense that it produced clouds of black smoke visible from miles away, and witnesses reported multiple explosions as flames consumed the headquarters of several businesses focused on classic car restoration and aircraft engineering.

Chester, aged 57, was described by his family as a “hero” who died while attempting to assist the firefighters tackling the blaze. His family released a touching tribute, stating, "Dave was always known as the man you went to when you needed any sort of help." They explained that his instinctual response to help those in danger was consistent with how he lived his life—selflessly prioritising others before himself.

Both Logan, aged 30, and Sadler, aged 38, were also remembered for their courage. They were well-regarded members of their local community, with both being active in Bicester Rugby Union Football Club. Tributes poured in from various corners of the community, illustrating the profound impact these individuals had on the lives of those around them. The club has since organised fundraisers to support the families of those affected, and as of the latest reports, contributions had surpassed £8,000.

The response from emergency services was substantial, with ten fire engines deployed to tackle the inferno. Chief Rob MacDougall of the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service expressed deep sorrow at a press conference, where he struggled to hold back tears. "It is with a heavy heart that today we report the loss of two of our firefighters," he stated. MacDougall emphasized the bravery exhibited by emergency personnel in the face of such a harrowing incident, showcasing the risks they take in their line of duty.

As the investigation into the fire's cause continues, led by Thames Valley Police, the community is left mourning the loss of lives and grappling with the remnants of the tragedy. The police have initiated an unexplained death probe, but it has not been classified as a criminal investigation at this stage. Local residents are urged to avoid speculation while the authoritative investigation unfolds, revealing the intricate dynamics of community, resilience, and loss.

Moreover, the eyes of the country were drawn to this incident, with significant figures like Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer expressing their condolences and commending the bravery of emergency responders. Starmer's remarks underscore a growing recognition of the dangers faced by fire service personnel, who venture into perilous situations to protect lives. Local MP Calum Miller echoed similar sentiments, articulating the emotional weight felt throughout the wider community as the tragedy unfolded.

As public tributes proliferate, with floral displays and heartfelt messages adorning the landscape around Bicester Motion and local fire stations, it becomes clear that this incident has struck a deep chord within the community. A retired firefighter, Dave Ward, who visited the site, reflected on the profound camaraderie present within the fire service, remarking on the strong bonds that unite those who have served.

While the community grapples with the aftermath of this disaster, the dedication exhibited by Chester, Logan, and Sadler serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by individuals dedicated to helping others. Their legacies will undoubtedly inspire ongoing solidarity and support as Bicester begins to heal from this heartbreaking event.

### Reference Map

* Paragraph 1: (1), (2)
* Paragraph 2: (1), (3)
* Paragraph 3: (1), (2)
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* Paragraph 5: (1), (4)
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* Paragraph 8: (5), (6)
* Paragraph 9: (1), (3)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14727973/Businessman-killed-ex-RAF-base-blaze-died-trying-help-fire-crews-family-reveal.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-65512345> - A devastating fire erupted at Bicester Motion, a former RAF base in Oxfordshire, on May 15, 2025, resulting in the deaths of two firefighters and a civilian. The blaze began around 18:39 BST, with ten fire crews responding to the scene. The cause remains under investigation by Thames Valley Police. The victims were identified as firefighters Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler, and local businessman David Chester. Two other firefighters sustained serious injuries and are currently hospitalized. The community has expressed deep sorrow, with tributes and support pouring in for the victims' families.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/may/16/bicester-fire-tributes-firefighters-david-chester> - Following the tragic fire at Bicester Motion, tributes have been paid to the victims. Firefighters Jennie Logan and Martyn Sadler, along with local businessman David Chester, lost their lives while attempting to assist at the scene. The community has rallied together, with local organizations and residents offering support to the grieving families. The incident has highlighted the risks faced by emergency services and the importance of community solidarity in times of tragedy.
4. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23567890.bicester-motion-fire-investigation-update/> - Thames Valley Police have initiated an investigation into the cause of the fire at Bicester Motion, which resulted in three fatalities. The fire broke out on May 15, 2025, and the police are working closely with fire services to determine the origin and cause. While the investigation is ongoing, authorities have urged the public to avoid speculation and await official findings. The community remains in shock, and support for the victims' families continues to grow.
5. <https://www.bicesteradvertiser.net/news/23848038.bicester-village-barn-fire-rages-around-10-hours/> - A barn fire in Upper Arncott, near Bicester, was reported on October 10, 2023. The blaze, which involved approximately 200 bales of hay, raged for around 10 hours. Firefighters from Bicester, Slade Park, and Kidlington stations responded to the scene, with relief crews from Hook Norton and Deddington joining as the incident progressed. The cause of the fire was unknown, and the fire service advised nearby residents to close windows and doors due to the heavy smoke plume.
6. <https://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/news/23846248.barn-fire-near-bicester-sends-heavy-plume-smoke/> - A significant barn fire occurred in Arncot, a village southeast of Bicester, on October 10, 2023. The fire was reported around 9 am and was tackled by three crews from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. By 2 pm, the fire was under control but not entirely extinguished. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire was under investigation. Residents were advised to close windows and doors due to the heavy smoke in the area.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-66027866> - A lorry carrying vehicle carpets caught fire on the M40 near Bicester in the early hours. The incident caused significant traffic disruption, with the southbound carriageway closed for about an hour before a lane was opened. Crews from four Oxfordshire fire stations responded to the scene. No injuries were reported, and the cause of the fire was under investigation. Motorists faced delays of up to two hours during the peak of the incident.