# BBC Radio 2 goes silent due to fire alarm for the first time in 20 years



On Thursday, BBC Radio 2 experienced an unprecedented interruption, going off air for the first time in two decades due to a fire alarm incident at its Broadcasting House facility near Oxford Street. The alarm, which prompted a swift evacuation of the building, occurred during the broadcast of Jeremy Vine's afternoon show.

As the alarm sounded, listeners could hear the automated voice announcing the emergency, prompting Vine to inform the audience that all staff members were required to vacate the premises. In an effort to keep listeners engaged while ensuring safety, the presenter announced he would play music in his absence; however, there was a brief period during which the station fell silent.

Upon returning to air, Vine explained the situation: “It's Radio 2 here. I do apologise, we did just have a proper fire alarm here. There wasn't a fire but we had the thing that I've not had in 20 years where not just one light goes off but two. The orange light which means there could be a fire and then the red light and then the announcement in the studio which looked as if there was one,” he said. He continued by mentioning the staff had stood outside in sunny weather while awaiting further information, confirming there was no fire and thus stating, “Because there's no fire we are going to cancel the item we were doing on cremation.”

The unusual occurrence prompted a flurry of reactions on social media, particularly on the platform X, where listeners expressed their astonishment at the unexpected dead air. One user remarked, “Wow.. Actual dead air live on BBC Radio 2. Fire alarm goes off at the studios during Jeremy Vine slot and the building's been evacuated by the guess of it.. Never heard a radio station go silent like that before and now it seems like it's on auto-pilot.”

The incident served as a stark reminder of the protocols in place for emergencies in broadcasting environments, highlighting the importance of safety in live radio settings.

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

## References

* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radio2> - This URL provides general information about BBC Radio 2, which is relevant to understanding the context of the interruption during Jeremy Vine's show.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts> - This URL could potentially host news articles related to BBC Radio 2 and similar incidents, although specific coverage of the fire alarm event might not be available.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is mentioned as the source of the article, but without specific content related to the BBC Radio 2 incident, it serves as a general reference.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BBC_Radio_2> - This URL provides background information on BBC Radio 2, including its history and operations, which can contextualize the significance of the interruption.
* <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category/radio> - This URL relates to Ofcom, the UK's communications regulator, which oversees broadcasting standards and could provide insights into emergency protocols in radio broadcasting.