# Fire at Hayes substation disrupts Heathrow operations and causes widespread power outages



In a significant incident that has disrupted air travel and left thousands without power, a fire at an electrical substation in Hayes, west London, has resulted in the closure of Heathrow Airport. The blaze, which was reported on [specific date], necessitated the presence of 70 firefighters and 10 fire engines from the London Fire Brigade, who worked to bring the situation under control. Thankfully, the London Ambulance Service confirmed that there have been no casualties linked to the fire.

The fire has led to the cancellation or diversion of at least 1,351 flights, causing substantial chaos at airports both domestically and internationally. Approximately 100,000 homes in the surrounding areas faced power outages due to the incident.

Ed Miliband, the Cabinet minister, provided updates on the situation during interviews, stating that there is “no suggestion that there is foul play” involved. He referenced a conversation with the chief executive of the National Grid, who assured him that the incident appears to be a significant yet catastrophic accident. Miliband confirmed that a backup generator, which was intended to supply power to Heathrow, was also damaged in the fire. However, he indicated that a secondary backup is being activated to restore power to the airport.

In remarks to Sky News, Miliband elaborated on the unprecedented nature of the incident, highlighting that the fire's scale had affected not only the primary power source but also backup mechanisms that were in place: “As I understand it from the National Grid, there was a backup generator but that was also affected by the fire, which gives a sense of how unusual and unprecedented it was,” he stated.

Labour MP Ruth Cadbury expressed her concerns regarding the dependency of the airport on a single substation. While she refrained from outright speculation regarding intentional causes of the fire, she noted, “for the airport to be dependent on one substation, it does raise questions,” describing it as “very, very concerning” that one electrical node could bring operations to a halt.

In light of rising tensions and security concerns, Commander Dominic Murphy, Head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, drew attention to possible links between the incident and wider Russian operations in the UK. He cited a recent case involving a Bulgarian spy ring engaged in industrial-scale espionage, suggesting that this incident could reflect ongoing threats: “We will see more of that.”

MI5 Director General Ken McCallum echoed these sentiments, stating that both Russia and Iran are intensifying efforts to create chaos through various forms of sabotage, including arson and other violent acts. Such developments have prompted heightened vigilance regarding potential international threats operating within the UK.

As investigations into the cause of the fire continue, authorities remain alert to both local operational impacts and broader geopolitical implications. The situation has underscored the vulnerabilities associated with critical infrastructure, sparking discussions about the need for more robust backup systems to mitigate future disruptions.

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

## References

* <https://internationalfireandsafetyjournal.com/electrical-substation-fire-in-london-causes-widespread-outages-and-heathrow-closure/> - This URL corroborates the fire at the electrical substation in Hayes, West London, causing widespread power outages and the closure of Heathrow Airport. It details the response by the London Fire Brigade and the impact on flights.
* <https://news.sky.com/story/large-fire-at-electrical-substation-in-west-london-causes-power-outages-13332920> - This URL supports the information about the fire's impact on Heathrow Airport, including its closure and the significant power outage affecting thousands of homes in the area.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/ed-miliband> - This URL provides background information on Ed Miliband, the Cabinet minister who commented on the incident, though it does not directly address the fire itself.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/biographies/commons/ruth-cadbury/4425> - This URL offers information about Ruth Cadbury, the Labour MP who expressed concerns about the airport's dependency on a single substation, though it does not directly address her comments on the fire.
* <https://www.met.police.uk/about/our-organisation/counter-terrorism-command/> - This URL provides context about the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command, which Commander Dominic Murphy is part of, though it does not directly address his comments on potential links to Russian operations.