# Fire crews battle major railway arch blaze in South Harrow with hazmat risk



A major fire erupted in South Harrow early on Friday morning, prompting a large-scale emergency response and warnings to local residents to keep their windows and doors shut due to thick smoke. The blaze broke out within a series of railway arches near Roxeth Green Avenue, engulfing multiple business premises and sending towering black smoke clouds into the sky. The London Fire Brigade quickly mobilised 15 fire engines and approximately 100 firefighters to the scene, tackling what has been described as a prolonged and challenging fire that continued to burn strongly well into the morning hours.

The scale of the response highlights the complexity of the incident. Fire crews deployed specialized equipment, including drones and two 32-metre ladders, to assess and combat the fire from different angles amid the confined and difficult-to-access railway arch structures. The brigade's official communications via social media emphasised their ongoing commitment to extinguishing the blaze and underlined the public safety advice to keep windows and doors shut to prevent smoke ingress.

This incident forms part of a broader pattern of fires in the Harrow area over recent months. Earlier in April, two separate fires were reported in South Harrow: one in a residential house on Windsor Crescent affecting several floors, and another in a first-floor flat on Stanley Road linked to an unattended candle. Both resulted in evacuations but no serious injuries, and they prompted reminders about fire safety and prevention measures. Similarly, in June, a fire broke out in a third-floor flat in nearby Harrow Weald, with the cause under investigation, showing ongoing vigilance is needed across the borough.

Although this most recent fire involves commercial premises rather than residential properties, the presence of potentially hazardous materials and the confined structure of the railway arches amplify the risks. Hazmat teams have been deployed on-site, reflecting concerns about possible dangerous substances, including gas cylinders that could explode if exposed to intense heat. Past significant fire events in the wider London area, such as the electrical substation fire near Heathrow that disrupted thousands of flights earlier this year, have illustrated the potential for fires involving industrial or infrastructure-related hazards to cause extensive disruption and danger to public safety.

Authorities have imposed road closures around the scene to facilitate emergency operations and ensure public safety. The brigade's statement confirms that crews will remain on site for an extended period, working to fully bring the fire under control and prevent reignition. Residents, businesses, and commuters in the vicinity are advised to stay alert to official updates and observe safety precautions as the situation evolves.

Overall, while the London Fire Brigade continues their efforts to contain this serious fire in Harrow, the incident serves as a stark reminder of the persistent threat fire poses, especially in urban settings with mixed commercial and residential use. It underscores the importance of ongoing preparedness, rapid emergency response, and public cooperation in mitigating harm during such emergencies.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode), [[2]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode), [[2]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/house-fire-south-harrow/), [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/flat-fire-south-harrow/), [[5]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/june/flat-fire-harrow-weald/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode), [[7]](https://www.ctif.org/news/world-wide-travel-affected-fire-25000-liters-cooling-oil-electrical-substation-near-heathrow)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode), [[2]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode), [[2]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2077230/london-fire-service-hazmat-deployed-cylinders-could-explode> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/> - On 4 July 2025, a significant fire erupted near Roxeth Green Avenue in South Harrow, affecting multiple railway arches and businesses. The London Fire Brigade responded with 15 fire engines and approximately 100 firefighters. Residents were advised to keep windows and doors closed due to smoke. The fire was expected to continue for several hours, with road closures in place throughout the night. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/july/fire-at-railway-arches-harrow/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/house-fire-south-harrow/> - On 24 April 2025, a house fire occurred on Windsor Crescent in South Harrow. The fire affected the loft, half of the first floor, and part of the ground floor. Three residents evacuated before firefighters arrived, and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/house-fire-south-harrow/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/flat-fire-south-harrow/> - On 29 April 2025, a fire broke out in a first-floor flat on Stanley Road in South Harrow. The fire was believed to have been caused by an unattended candle used as part of a religious shrine. There were no reports of injuries. The London Fire Brigade issued a reminder about the safe use of candles. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/flat-fire-south-harrow/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/june/flat-fire-harrow-weald/> - On 5 June 2025, a fire occurred in a third-floor flat on High Road, Harrow Weald. One woman evacuated before the Brigade arrived and was assessed on scene by the London Ambulance Service. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Brigade and the Metropolitan Police Service. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/june/flat-fire-harrow-weald/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/house-fire-harrow/> - On 12 April 2025, a fire occurred on Barchester Road in Harrow, damaging part of the first floor of a semi-detached house. One man was treated by London Ambulance Service crews. The fire is being treated as accidental and is believed to have been caused by the failure of a lithium-ion battery in a drill. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/incidents/2025/april/house-fire-harrow/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.ctif.org/news/world-wide-travel-affected-fire-25000-liters-cooling-oil-electrical-substation-near-heathrow> - On 20 March 2025, a fire at an electrical substation near Heathrow Airport caused a major power outage, leading to the temporary closure of the airport. The incident disrupted over 1,300 flights and affected as many as 290,000 passengers worldwide. The fire involved 25,000 liters of cooling oil and posed significant hazards due to live electrical equipment. ([ctif.org](https://www.ctif.org/news/world-wide-travel-affected-fire-25000-liters-cooling-oil-electrical-substation-near-heathrow?utm_source=openai))