# Man arrested on suspicion of arson after major fire damages Brixton’s Electric Avenue



A significant fire broke out on Electric Avenue in Brixton, south London, prompting a major emergency response and the arrest of a man on suspicion of arson. The blaze began in a storage area behind shops on this bustling shopping street, which was famously immortalised in Eddy Grant’s 1983 hit song "Electric Avenue." The fire rapidly spread to the building above the storage area, causing extensive damage that required the deployment of around 70 firefighters and ten fire engines.

The London Fire Brigade managed to bring the fire under control by early afternoon, using high ladders both as lookouts and water towers to extinguish flames reaching the upper parts of the building. Throughout the day, firefighters worked persistently, accessing back areas of shops where smoke was billowing out, while torrents of water were visible from street-level hose connections. Despite the dramatic scene, there were no reported injuries, with approximately 50 people evacuated from the affected premises before the fire brigade arrived.

In response to the incident, Brixton Tube station was closed for the day as a precaution to prevent smoke from spreading through the Underground network. Additionally, police implemented road closures and maintained a cordon around Electric Avenue, blocking pedestrian and vehicle access to the area and advising local residents to keep their windows shut to avoid smoke inhalation.

The Metropolitan Police have launched a full investigation into the fire as a suspected arson case. A man in his 40s was arrested and remains in police custody while enquiries continue. The authorities have established a crime scene and are appealing for anyone with information about the incident to come forward, offering a dedicated phone line and anonymity options for callers.

Electric Avenue, historically significant as the first market street in London to be lit by electric lights in the late 19th century, is renowned not only for its vibrant market offering African, Caribbean, South American, and South Asian goods but also for its cultural legacy. The street is situated near Brixton Underground station and retains a crucial place in the local community and London’s wider cultural landscape.

This event underscores the vulnerabilities even iconic urban landmarks face to such devastating incidents. The swift coordinated effort by firefighters and the police has so far prevented injuries and curbed the spread of the blaze, but the full impact on local businesses and residents will become clearer as the investigation proceeds and the aftermath is assessed.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-07-07/70-firefighters-called-to-blaze-on-electric-avenue), [[4]](https://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2025/07/large-fire-breaks-out-in-brixton-town-centre-as-tube-station-temporarily-closes-in-photos/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/), [[4]](https://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2025/07/large-fire-breaks-out-in-brixton-town-centre-as-tube-station-temporarily-closes-in-photos/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/london-brixton-david-lynch-metropolitan-police-brixton-tube-b1236738.html), [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-07-07/70-firefighters-called-to-blaze-on-electric-avenue), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/brixton-fire-electric-avenue-station-closed-victoria-line-tfl-b1236743.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/london-brixton-david-lynch-metropolitan-police-brixton-tube-b1236738.html), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_Avenue)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/), [[4]](https://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2025/07/large-fire-breaks-out-in-brixton-town-centre-as-tube-station-temporarily-closes-in-photos/), [[6]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/london-brixton-david-lynch-metropolitan-police-brixton-tube-b1236738.html> - A man in his 40s was arrested on suspicion of arson following a fire on Electric Avenue in Brixton, London. The blaze, which began in a storage area behind shops, led to the closure of Brixton Tube station and nearby roads. Approximately 70 firefighters attended the scene, and no injuries were reported. The Metropolitan Police have established a crime scene and are investigating the incident. Residents were advised to avoid the area and keep windows closed due to smoke.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-07-07/70-firefighters-called-to-blaze-on-electric-avenue> - A significant fire erupted on Electric Avenue in Brixton, London, prompting the deployment of 70 firefighters and ten fire engines. The fire originated in a storage area behind shops and spread to the building above. Brixton Tube station was temporarily closed, and surrounding roads were cordoned off. The Metropolitan Police arrested a man in his 40s on suspicion of arson. No injuries were reported, and residents were advised to avoid the area and keep windows closed due to smoke.
4. <https://www.brixtonbuzz.com/2025/07/large-fire-breaks-out-in-brixton-town-centre-as-tube-station-temporarily-closes-in-photos/> - A substantial fire broke out in central Brixton, London, on July 7, 2025, with ten fire engines and around seventy firefighters in attendance. The fire began in a storage area on Electric Lane, behind the Brixton Tube station. The ground floor of a two-storey warehouse was destroyed, and part of the first floor and roof were damaged. Approximately 50 people evacuated the building before the brigade arrived. There were no reports of injuries, and the cause of the fire is under investigation.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/brixton-fire-electric-avenue-station-closed-victoria-line-tfl-b1236743.html> - A fire broke out at a building in Brixton's Electric Avenue, London, leading to the closure of Brixton Tube station and surrounding roads. Approximately 70 firefighters from various stations were dispatched to tackle the blaze, which started in a storage area at the back of a mixed-use building. The Metropolitan Police arrested a man in his 40s on suspicion of arson. No injuries were reported, and residents were advised to avoid the area and keep windows closed due to smoke.
6. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/police-arrest-man-on-suspicion-of-arson-following-fire-on-electric-avenue-R55B4H7YDZPLFLUGM5IP4524HI/> - Police arrested a man on suspicion of arson after a fire on Electric Avenue in Brixton, London. The blaze, which began in a storage area behind shops, saw ten fire engines and approximately 70 firefighters called out. Brixton Tube station was closed, and residents were advised to keep their windows closed due to smoke. The Metropolitan Police have established a crime scene and are investigating the incident. No injuries were reported, and the arrested man remains in police custody.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electric_Avenue> - Electric Avenue is a street in Brixton, London, built in 1888. It was the first market street to be lit by electric lights. Today, it contains national retail chains and hosts a part of Brixton Market, specialising in African, Caribbean, South American, and South Asian products. The street is located just around the corner from Brixton Underground station. The road is referenced in Eddy Grant's 1983 single 'Electric Avenue', which reached #2 on both the UK and US singles charts.