



R B F & R S

news release

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NORTHBROOK ROAD NEWBURY – UPDATE

The incident at the Early Learning Centre, in Northbrook Road, Newbury, has now been closed.

Firefighters had continued to monitor the retail premises in the centre of Newbury following a fire there on Tuesday (28 October).

The fire at the Early Learning Centre was discovered by staff, who reported smoke in a stock room on Tuesday morning. Fire crews had to cut away sections of brickwork to deal with the smouldering fire in internal fibreboard walling. A thermal imaging camera was used to identify the seat of the fire, located in the walls below a flat roof at the rear of the premises.

Newbury fire station commander Matt Frayne, said the incident presented a number of challenges, due to the construction and internal layout of the building:

“The fire was smouldering in a layer of fibreboard between two brick walls. To protect the structure of the building, we cut a series of inspection holes in the brickwork through which water was fed to extinguish the fire. We also had to remove part of the flat roof over the stockroom area.

“Crews have been damping down since Tuesday evening and we carried out regular reinspections of the property to ensure that no hot spots remained. We have been working closely with building inspectors and the occupiers and owners of the property were on site throughout the incident. I would like to reassure people who live or work nearby that this was a slow smouldering fire and that they were not at risk.”

ENDS.