

# Russian-Linked U.K. Package Fire Strong Enough to Down Plane – Guardian

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**theguardian.com**

A suspected Russian incendiary device that caught fire inside a British shipping warehouse this summer was powerful enough to down an airplane, the Guardian [reported](#) Tuesday, citing newly surfaced images.

In July, a series of igniting packages at logistics depots in Germany and Britain were linked to an alleged Russian sabotage campaign aimed at triggering explosions on cargo flights.

The Guardian published a photograph of the fire from a DHL warehouse in Birmingham, which it said supports intelligence assessments that the blast was “strong enough to have brought down a cargo plane.”

The light of the blaze on the image is consistent with fires caused by a magnesium-based device.

The Guardian cited experts as saying that the use of combustible magnesium, which is

difficult to put out when ignited, suggests the desire to cause damage.

British police [said](#) in October that counter-terrorism police were investigating the July 22 incident, which it said did not cause significant damage or injuries.

**Related article:** [Moscow Behind Incendiary Packages Sent Across Europe, Lithuanian Official Says](#)

The Wall Street Journal [reported](#) last month that Western intelligence agencies believe the incendiary devices that caught fire in Europe were part of a covert Russian operation.

The Kremlin told WSJ it had not heard official accusations of Russian involvement in the incidents.

In October, Poland announced the [arrest](#) of four people in connection with an alleged plot to mail camouflaged explosives to Canada and the United States via EU countries and the U.K., which spontaneously ignited while being transported.

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