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

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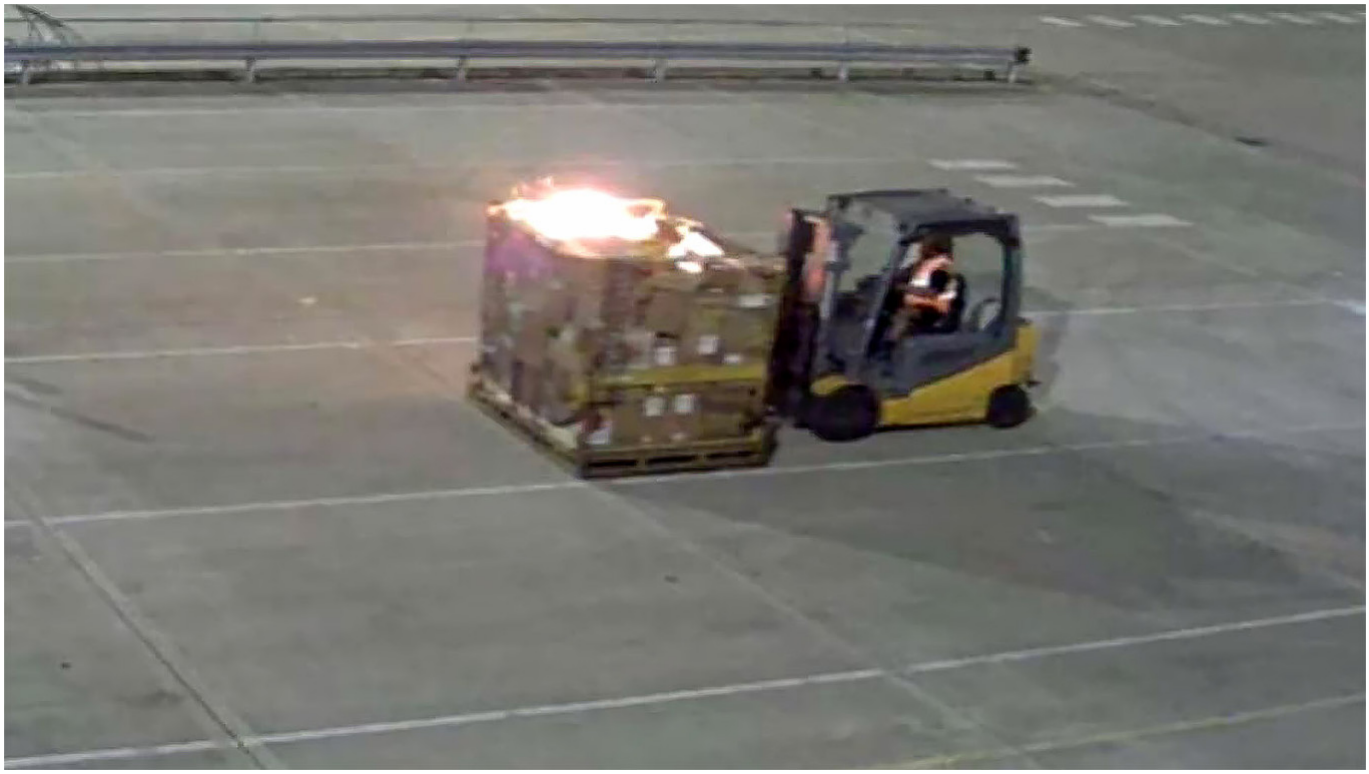

theguardian.com

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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