

Fireman injured in garage blaze



A FIREFIGHTER was taken to hospital after suffering burns during a 12-hour operation to tackle a blaze which ripped through part of a garage business in Northumberland early yesterday.

The fire caused severe damage to the Kingsway MoT, car service and repairs centre in Front Street, Bebside, near Blyth, after it was reported to the fire service at about 8.25pm on Tuesday.

Four fire crews and an aerial ladder appliance from the Tyne and Wear brigade found the building well alight, and worked through the night to control the blaze and prevent it spreading to an adjoining vehicle sales centre.

The ladder was used to tackle the flames from above and firefighters from Cramlington, Blyth, Ashington and Alswick faced freezing temperatures – which saw water from hoses freeze on the road – and

an unstable building as they battled to bring the incident under control.

One firefighter was taken to Wansbeck General Hospital after suffering minor burns to his neck when he was caught in a shower of melting bitumen and falling timber from the roof, but was allowed home after treatment.

Gas cylinders in danger of blowing up and four cars in the MoT unit were removed by crews. The garage annex included three flats and three people watching a football match in one of them had to be evacuated.

The road past the garage, which links Blyth and Bedlington, was closed to traffic and pedestrians while the operation was carried out, and remained shut during damping-down operations yesterday morning.

A fire investigation team from the Northumberland fire and rescue service began a probe into the cause of the blaze, although there were no early indications that it is suspicious.

The Institution of Fire Engineers – International Fire News Update