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Man held after suspected arson attack at Tamworth mental health centre

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- [Police](#)



About a dozen occupants and staff were evacuated as the fire took hold at the George Bryan Medical Centre in TamworthBRADLEY STOKES/PA

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Police have detained a man on suspicion of arson after a fire at a mental health centre in Staffordshire.

A “severe” blaze broke out at the George Bryan Medical Centre in Tamworth shortly before 9pm last night. A patient briefly absconded amid the disorder but was found soon afterwards, police said.

Part of the roof appeared to have fallen in as flames engulfed the building and smoke rose into the sky. There were no reported casualties.

Staffordshire police said a suspect, 43, from Tamworth, had been detained.

Ten crews from Staffordshire, West Midlands and Warwickshire fire services were deployed and nearly a dozen occupants and staff were evacuated.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said that “quite a lot of the building” had been damaged.

“We’re trying to sacrifice part of the building and let that burn to prevent it from spreading to the rest of the hospital,” he said last night.

The George Bryan Medical Centre shares a site with the Sir Robert Peel Community Hospital in the Mile Oak area of Tamworth, although the two buildings are not connected.

The facility is run by the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and provides mental health services for adults, including acute care under the Mental Health Act.