

Press information

Berlin, 8 April 2020

Clouds of smoke over the Humboldt Forum

This morning, black smoke was seen rising over the Humboldt Forum. It was caused by two mastic asphalt containers, which caught fire around 10 am in the entranceway of Gate 1, leading to the explosion of a gas cylinder. One construction worker at the site suffered minor smoke inhalation, but nobody else was hurt. The fire brigade arrived at the scene within a few minutes, sealed off the danger zone and extinguished the blaze within twenty minutes. Thanks to the swift and well-coordinated efforts of the fire brigade and the on-site security team, the construction area was quickly evacuated in an orderly manner. Police and detectives are currently at the scene investigating the precise cause of the fire. The affected area is still sealed off.

Hans-Dieter Hegner, who is in charge of construction at the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss, is relieved that the exterior fire caused so little in the way of personal injury and that, according to the information we currently have, there has been no material damage within the building. The work to complete the Humboldt Forum can continue as scheduled.

Minister of State Monika Grütters commented: “The pictures of fire above the gateway to the palace gave us all a scare. I thank all those responsible at the site and in the Stiftung Humboldt Forum for handling the matter so calmly and evacuating the area so quickly. It is reassuring to see once more just how much we can all rely on the fire brigade. I am glad that this incident has not exacerbated the restrictions introduced to combat the Coronavirus.”

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