

What happened at Grenfell Tower?

How events unfolded as fire engulfed a 24-storey block of flats in west London.



GRENPELL TOWER

- **Built:** 1974
- **Height:** 70m
- **Floors:** 24
- **Homes:** 127
- **Refurbished in:** 2016
- **Works carried out:** Externally, rain-screen cladding, curtain wall facade and replacement windows were fitted, improving thermal insulation and modernising the exterior of the building. Internally, reconfiguration of podium levels and new heating system

WHAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED IT?

- **Gas explosion:** Residents said refurbishment work had recently been carried out with work on the gas supply to the flats
- **Faulty fridge:** Witnesses described hearing one distressed resident apparently telling neighbours that his faulty fridge caused the blaze
- **Faulty wiring:** One of the safety issues residents highlighted was faulty wiring and said that a disaster caused by the problem was narrowly averted four years ago

12.45am

Residents make their first 999 calls about the fire.

1.15am

When man on the 17th floor says he first became aware of the blaze. The fire had reached his window by the time he got out.

1.30am

Resident says flames had wrapped around the building.

8am

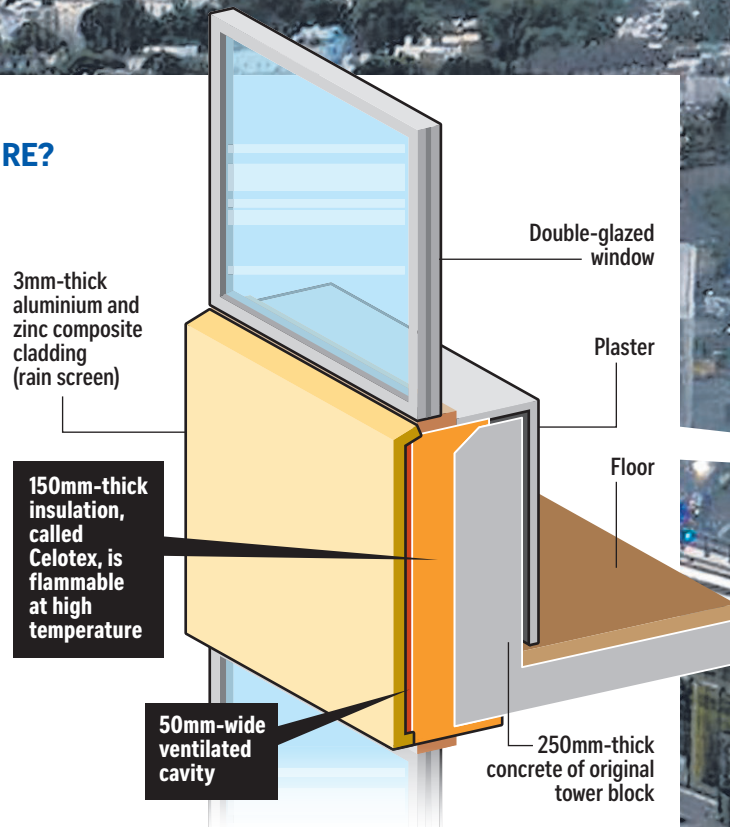
A number of fatalities has been reported, with 50 more taken to hospital.

9.45am

Firefighters manage to reach the 21st floor as they continue to tackle the blaze.

DID THE CLADDING HELP SPREAD THE FIRE?

- Cladding is a material that is usually attached directly to the frame of a building to act as an outer wall.
- Rain-screen cladding is a double-wall construction that makes use of a surface to keep the rain out.
- It also has an inner layer that offers thermal insulation, prevents excessive air leakage and carries wind loading.



Witnesses saw a parent throwing two children out of fifth- or sixth-storey window and a person trying to escape using a "home-made parachute"

Fire is said to have started on the fourth floor

Firefighters were seen going up the tower's single stairwell – the only way to escape the building by foot

A baby was caught by a member of the public after being dropped from the ninth or 10th storey, a witness said

At the fire's peak, 200 firefighters were at the scene

PHOTO: AFP
Sources: THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY MAIL, THE TELEGRAPH
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS