

Mill fire:

Firemen

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explosion

FIRE BADLY damaged part of the Healey Hall Mills in Healey Dell on Thursday.

Extensive damage estimated at more than £5,000 was caused to the upper floor of a two-storey building owned by the firm of Ellidge and Fairley, Catering Engineers Ltd.

The fire began at about 6 am. There was no one in the building at the time.

The fire was under control within an hour.

But as firemen fought to contain the blaze they faced the danger of propane and acetylene gas cylinders exploding from the heat.

The fire is believed to have started when heat from a coke-fired stove set alight combustible material.

A row of benches with several partly built chip ranges on them were destroyed, as was a lock-forming machine, worth £600, and about £500 worth of welding rods.

Mr Robert Ellidge, a partner in the firm, told the Observer: "We're hoping it's not going to seriously affect production, but it's certainly going to slow us down.

"One or two contracts may be delayed but we'll struggle on."
