

Didn't feel
a thing...



ROBOTS TO THE RESCUE

Robots aren't afraid of a raging fire or things that might explode. It's all in a day's work. And they even go back for more!

Firefighter Robots

In 1992, a terrible fire broke out in a chemical factory in Bradford, West Yorkshire, England. An employee at the factory told firefighters the warehouses contained 600 tonnes of hazardous chemicals. If these exploded, it would have blown up half the town. Thankfully, they didn't.



The West Yorkshire Fire Service wanted to be better prepared for future fires. So they worked with a heavy vehicle manufacturer to develop a robot firefighter. The Firespy robot was first used in 1999. It can go into the heart of fires, remove any highly dangerous materials, and assess if it is safe for human firefighters to go in. Firespy can withstand up to 800°C. That's hot! A hose attachment has been designed so that Firespy can carry water right into the centre of the fire.

Firespy is operated by remote control and has two infra-red cameras so the person operating it can see what is happening. At the front is a powerful arm that can grab onto large objects and pull them from danger.

