

Firebug blaze theory

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POLICE at Stroud say arsonists could have been responsible for a blaze at an empty factory in the town.

Officers believe the fire, which broke out in the early hours at Eagle Mill, Bowbridge, might have been started deliberately.

Their inquiries, helped by investigations by fire service specialists, were continuing, said head of Stroud police Superintendent Ken Mahon. "It is a disused factory site and the fire started in a pile of rubbish on the

ground floor. I can say the cause is doubtful" he said.

The old mill, at the rear of the local council run Ashcroft House old people's home, is up for sale.

Fire fighters from Stroud as well as police were called there shortly after 1 am today.

The fire was quickly brought under control, but some 10 per cent of the ground and first floors and the roof were badly damaged.