

'FIREBALL' RIPS INTO HOUSES

TWO HOUSES were badly damaged when a "ball of flame" tore into them yesterday.

Mrs. Dorothy Ovard, who lives in one of the damaged houses in Ashley Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, said last night: "I was standing on the doorstep when I saw orange blobs falling from the sky.

"Looking up I saw a ball of fire about five inches in diameter travelling at terrific speed towards the house. Seconds later there was an almighty explosion."

Electricity plugs in Mrs. Ovard's home were torn out and clouds of black smoke came from the television set.

Next door, the home of Mrs. Helen Brickell, suffered worse.

Slates from the front part of the roof were found over 150 yards away. The ceiling of a bedroom and bathroom were also badly damaged.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said the "fireball" was more probably a very rare form of lightning. "We call it ball lightning," he said.