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Jet fuelled UFO reports

FUEL WHICH ignited after being dumped from a US fighter jet over Wales led to hundreds of people phoning authorities claiming they had seen a UFO.

The United States Air Force jet jettisoned part of its supply of highly-explosive aviation fuel, which then caught fire in the skies over the Welsh borders.

The incident came to light after hundreds of people contacted

By MARGARET KEENAN

police about mysterious lights in the sky and muffled explosions early on Monday evening.

But the MoD admitted yesterday that the "UFO" was in fact an American F-111 jet on a routine flying sortie when it was urgently recalled to its Suffolk base.

Unable to return safely without disposing of some of its fuel, the

pilot dumped a large quantity at 10,000ft.

An MoD spokesman said, "Its after-burner caught the fuel and set it alight. Then it returned to base.

"It is perfectly safe."

He said that the same technique is used as a stunt at air shows.

The MoD regulations which govern such exercises permit fuel to be dumped as low as 1,500ft.