

Latest Tesla Fire Inferno Proves That Any Bump Will Cause Tesla Batteries To Explode Later When You Least Expect It

Tesla Model S caught fire in Manchester, Tesla says cause is due to a crash 2 months before the fire

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[Tesla](#) [Tesla Model S](#) [Tesla fire](#)



Tesla has been under scrutiny before over several instances of vehicles catching on fire. The media made a big deal out of it despite the fact that almost every instance happened after a high-speed accident. Statistics showed that Tesla's vehicles caught fire significantly less often than the national average and NHTSA eventually [conducted an investigation and found no problem](#).

But on other (rarer) occasions, Tesla's vehicles caught fire without being involved in an impact, like [a Model S catching on fire during a test drive event in France](#) and [another one in Norway burned down while Supercharging](#).

We now learn of another fire that is somewhat in-between the two types of fires.

In October, Philip Coates from Manchester parked his Model S 70D at his mother's house without plugging in the vehicle for charging.

He told Electrek that about an hour later, he realized that his Model S was on fire and called the local fire department.

They were able to extinguish the fire since extraordinarily, the battery pack didn't catch on fire which would have been much more difficult to stop.

Nonetheless, the damages were significant and left the Model S completely destroyed. Here are a few images (picture credit: Phil Coates):





Coates' insurer investigated and told him that they tracked the origin of the fire to a "condenser for the BMS" located behind the bumper – near the wheel well.

Here's a picture of that section of the vehicle after the fire:



Since the vehicle was under warranty, Coates assumed that Tesla would pay to have it replaced, but the company wouldn't and instead claimed that the cause was most likely damages that occurred in an accident prior to the fire.

A Tesla spokesperson sent us the following statement:

“Tesla commissioned an independent investigator to determine the cause of the fire. We concluded that the fire in all probability occurred due to damage related to an earlier crash that the vehicle had been involved in. We are working with our customer’s insurance company with a view to ensuring that the customer receives full compensation for his loss.”

The accident happened over 2 months before the car caught fire. According to Coates, it was a relatively minor accident. As he described it to Electrek:

“I was approaching a roundabout and the person in front stopped for no reason at all while I was looking to see if any traffic was coming and collided with them, the impact was around 10 mph.”

The front bumper and the hood were damaged, but the vehicle was drivable without any alert:



He said that even the Autopilot worked despite the radar being located in the front bumper. Only the parking sensors were not working.

The Model S was brought to a Tesla Approved shop to conduct the repairs. As evidenced by the bill, they extensively checked the vehicle for any problem:

Guide No.	Description	Part Number	Qty.	Hold Date	Price
260	FRT NO PLATE REINF	102187100C	0%		£50.83
283	FRONT BUMPER	102491900D	0%		£310.83
307	FRONT SENSOR	104621703A	0%		£19.17
350	FRT BUMPER CLAMP KIT		0%		£15.00
359	CLIP FASTENING	100652200A 02X	0%		£0.00
361	CLIP FASTENING	101201500A 02X	0%		£0.00
372	R/F CTR PARK AID SEN	104847301A	0%		£70.00
410	GRILLE	6008159	0%		£54.91
413	GRILLE MOLDING	101741400D	0%		£93.33
414	RADIATOR GRILLE TRIM	105820000A	0%		£130.83
427	L/BUMPER BRACKET	600588800D	0%		£10.00
428	R/BUMPER BRACKET	600882100D	0%		£10.00
429	L/INN BUMPER BRACKET	102079300B	0%		£52.50
430	R/INN BUMPER BRACKET	102079300B	0%		£52.50
431	GRILLE BADGE	101744200B	0%		£37.50
433	UPPER GRILLE TRIM	101741600C	0%		£168.33
471	BONNET	103838400C	0%		£576.67
475	L/HINGE	102928400C	0%		£52.50
476	R/HINGE	102928500C	0%		£52.50
485	INSULATION MNTG KIT	USE SINGLE PARTS	0%		£0.00
486	CLIP FASTENING	101091000A 12X	0%		£0.00
487	CLIP FASTENING	100939900A 14X	0%		£0.00
845	L/F W-ARCH LINER MTG	100652100A 13X	0%		£0.00
846	R/F W-ARCH LINER MTG	100652100A 13X	0%		£0.00
3582	R/R WDW ADHESIVE KIT	104864500A	0%		£10.83
3584	R/R S-WINDOW PRIMER	105965800A	0%		£5.83
Sub Total					£1,774.06
Sundry Parts					£35.18
Total Parts					£1,809.24

NO NUMBER	ADD/TIME FOR MAIN WORK	2.0
NO NUMBER	R + R LEFT FRONT WHEEL	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT FRONT WHEEL	1.0
0340	CHECK FRT BUMPER SUPPORT	
0344	CHECK FRT BUMPER ABSORBER	
0481	CHECK BONNET INSULATION	
0493	CHECK UPPER BONNET LOCK	
0494	CHECK BONNET LOCK PIN	
0495	CHECK LOWER BONNET LOCK	
0501	CHECK LEFT BONNET STRUT	
0502	CHECK RIGHT BONNET STRUT	
0517	CHECK BONNET SEAL	
0536	CHECK FRT LOCK PROTECTION	
0537	CHECK FRONT LOCK COVER	
0539	CHECK LUGGAGE COMP LAMP	
1009	CHECK RADIATOR FRAME	
7761	CHECK RADIATOR CPL	
7791	CHECK ASR DEFLECTOR	
7793	CHECK FRT ASR DEFL BOARD	
8780	CHECK LOWER PROTECTION	
1000	ON COMPLETION -CLEAN VEHICLE	10.0*
1000	SIGN OFF FINAL DRIVE &	8.0*

Repair Information

LABOUR

Time Basis 10 WU = 1 HR. Price = £88.50/HR

Repair / Guide

Number	Description	Work Units
NO NUMBER	R + R FRONT PROTECTIVE COVER	3.0
10011001)	R + R FRONT BUMPER	8.0
10011002)	RENEW FRONT BUMPER (REMOVED)	33.0
	INCLUDES: REQUIRED ATTACHED PARTS REMOVE AND REFIT	
NO NUMBER	R + R L/F BUMPER MOUNTING	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R R/F BUMPER MOUNTING	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R LEFT FRONT BUMPER BRACKET	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT FRONT BUMPER BRACKET	1.0
NO NUMBER	REMOVE AND REFIT FRONT SENSOR	1.0
11101002	RENEW BONNET	15.0
	INCLUDES: R + R BONNET, CONVERT ATTACHED PARTS, RENEW IF NECESSARY	
NO NUMBER	R + R L/BONNET HINGE	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R R/BONNET HINGE	1.0
NO NUMBER	R + R L/F WHEELHOUSE REAR LINER	3.0
NO NUMBER	R + R R/F WHEELHOUSE REAR LINER	3.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT ROOF MOULDING	9.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT REAR SIDE WINDOW GLASS	25.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT BOOT TRIM	2.0
NO NUMBER	R + R REAR END PANEL TRIM	5.0
NO NUMBER	R + R REAR SEAT	2.0
NO NUMBER	R + R RIGHT REAR SEAT REST	4.0

Ultimately, the repairs were completed on September 23rd and were mostly aesthetic in nature.

The Model S caught fire 2 weeks later on the 8th of October 2016. More time passed between the accident and the repairs than between the repairs and the fire.

Coates says that his insurer dismissed the idea that the fire was caused by damages that occurred during the accident. Nonetheless, they paid Coates back and he was able to buy a new Tesla.

The only other instance of a fire that comes close to those circumstances was [a Model S that caught fire earlier this month in Shanghai](#) while it was parked at a Supercharger without charging. Tesla is still investigating the cause.

As usual, it's important to note that car fires are not exactly unique to electric vehicles. Ford just [had to recall 570,000 vehicles due to a risk of engine fires.](#)