

# 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 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      | Bet. | Held Date | Price            |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------|-----------|------------------|
| 260                 | FRT NO PLATE REINF   | 102187100C       | 0%   |           | £50.83           |
| 283                 | FRONT BUMPER         | 102495900D       | 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 | 102079200B       | 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       | 101091900A 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            |
| <b>Sub Total</b>    |                      |                  |      |           | <b>£1,774.06</b> |
| <b>Sundry Parts</b> |                      |                  |      |           | <b>£35.18</b>    |
| <b>Total Parts</b>  |                      |                  |      |           | <b>£1,809.24</b> |

|           |                             |       |
|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 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 AIR DEFLECTOR         |       |
| 7793      | CHECK FRT AIR DEFL BOARD    |       |
| 8780      | CHECK LOWER PROTECTION      |       |
| 1000      | ON COMPLETION CLEAN VEHICLE | 10.0* |
| 1000      | SIGN OFF FINAL DRIVE &      | 8.0*  |

| <b>Repair Information</b> |  |                   |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>LABOUR</b>             | <b>Time Basis 10 WU = 1 HR. Price = £88.50/HR</b>                        |                   |
| <b>Repair / Guide</b>     |  |                   |
| <b>Number</b>             | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Work Units</b> |
| 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<br>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,<br>CONVERT ATTACHED PARTS, RENEW IF<br>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.](#)