

Tesla's Futuristic Door Handles Blamed for Deaths in Fiery Wrecks



Robert Burnson

[Bloomberg](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The futuristic door handles on Tesla Inc.'s Model S are being blamed for a fatal crash in which a police officer was unable to pull a man to safety from his burning car.

Omar Awan, a 48-year-old anesthesiologist, was driving his leased Tesla in February when he lost control on a south Florida parkway and the car slammed into a palm tree, according to a wrongful death lawsuit filed in state court in Broward County.

A police officer couldn't open the doors because the handles were retracted and bystanders watched helplessly as the car filled with smoke and flames, according to the complaint, which alleges the fire originated with the car's battery.

The door handles on the Model S are flush with the car and pop out -- "auto-present" in the words of Tesla -- when they detect that the key fob is nearby.

"Fire engulfed the car and burned Dr. Awan beyond recognition -- all because the Model S has inaccessible door handles, no other way to open the doors, and an unreasonably dangerous fire

risk,” according to the Oct. 10 suit. The complaint lists the cause of death as smoke inhalation and states that Awan had sustained no internal injuries or broken bones in the crash.

Read More: What First Responders Don't Know About Fiery Electric Vehicles

Tesla didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Consumer Reports said in 2015 that broken door handles were one of the most common problems with the Model S.

Awan's Tesla continued to burn for hours, reigniting several times even after firefighters had extinguished the flames and the car had been towed, according to the complaint.

This isn't the only case to fault the Model S's lithium-ion batteries as flammable. The family of an 18-year-old who lost control of his Tesla at 116 miles per hour and crashed into a concrete wall last year blames an explosion of the battery for his death in an “entirely survivable” crash, according to a suit filed this month in state court in San Jose, California.

Awan's case is Awan v. Tesla Inc., 19-021110, Circuit Court of Broward County, Florida.

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door handle problems | Tesla

◁ <https://forums.tesla.com/forum/forums/door-handle-problems-0>

If a **door handle** can be considered a safety issue and it's a known issue, it can be reported. If **Tesla** is looking to replace gas cars with electric cars, they need to compare to gas cars equally, including **handles** that don't break often.

[Door handle problems | Tesla](#)

◁ <https://forums.tesla.com/forum/forums/door-handle-problems>

Door handle problems. Tesla picked up the car in the morning, replaced the **handle** and had the car back to me by the end of the day. The passenger side went two days before my annual service, so I just had it replaced then (could still open it from the inside). The only two issues that I've had in 13 months.

How The Tesla Model S Door Handle Works And How To Fix It ...

◁ <https://insideevs.com/news/335342/how-the-tesla-model-s-door-handle-works-and-how-to-fix-it-videos/>

Then again, given the the list of things they were asked to make the **door handle** do — pop out from its normal position, flush with the body of the car, when the key fob comes into proximity or ...

[How to fix Tesla Door Handles - YouTube](#)

◁ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PU0Kbo5Tos>

On a mission to please his wife Car Guru shows you how to fix those faulty **tesla door handles**. Thank you to camera man 1: Ev tuning solutions <https://evtunin...>

[Door Handles Issue | Tesla](#)

◁ <https://forums.tesla.com/forum/forums/door-handles-issue>

As has been widely reported on the Internet, **Tesla** has been dealing with **door** failures on early Model S vehicles for years. The **door handle** has been redesigned a few times and **Tesla** is now on generation 3. There is unquestionably a design flaw in generation 1, generation 2, and generation 2.5 **door handles**, so this is definitely not a warranty issue.

Why Tesla Door Handles Break And How To Fix Them - YouTube

◁ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1Q2XLC47b0>

We explore the two main ways that **Tesla door handle** break and share some low cost fixes that resolve the issues. Subscribe to our channel: <http://www.youtube...>

[Door handle permanent fix? | Tesla Motors Club](#)

< <https://teslamotorsclub.com/tmc/threads/door-handle-permanent-fix.148963/>

I've had a terrible time with the **door handles** failing to present. I've had at least 6 failures - two in the past few weeks. Is this still a **problem** on new cars? If it's been resolved, then is there a way to install the new design on my car? I thought that the **door handles** were redesigned and if ...

Door Handle issue | Tesla Motors Club

↳ <https://teslamotorsclub.com/tmc/threads/door-handle-issue.82793/>

Open trunk with **handle** on trunk, close trunk, not sure if the **handles** present as I walk to driver's **door** - or if they do it when I pop the trunk (I think the former). Get to driver's **door** just as trunk closes - an **handles** retract and then re-present.

Door handle fix | Tesla

◁ <https://forums.tesla.com/forum/forums/door-handle-fix>

For the last 2+ years, **Tesla** is on v3 **handles** and they have been far more stable/reliable. My guess is **Tesla** only had v2 when you replaced one 3 years ago - so it may fail. You can dramatically reduce the wear on 3 **doors** by selecting the option to only open the driver's **door** when you walk up to the car.

Door handle not functioning | Tesla

↳ <https://forums.tesla.com/forum/forums/door-handle-not-functioning>

Door handle not functioning. You can tell if this is your **problem** by listening carefully to the **door** near the latch - the **handle** extension motor runs continuously if this is the gear is broken. If not, the cause will be one of the other two issues above.

Door Handle Failures | Tesla Motors Club

< <https://teslamotorsclub.com/tmc/threads/door-handle-failures.97673/>

The drivers side **handle** failed--stopped presenting--on my MS 75D after about 3 weeks. **Tesla** sent a mobile truck to fix it in 1.5 days. The technician--who was excellent--said that **door handles** are his No. 1 service job, but that **Tesla** introduced a Generation 3 **door handle** in 2017 that is much better.

[Tesla Hot Door Handles: How To Fix The Problem | Torque News](https://www.torquenews.com/1/tesla-hot-door-handles-how-fix-problem)

↳ <https://www.torquenews.com/1/tesla-hot-door-handles-how-fix-problem>

Tesla Model S **door handles** sometimes can get very hot in summer. Several **Tesla** owners have attested to this **problem** and offered their solutions on how to fix it.

25 Problems With Tesla Nobody Talks About | HotCars

↳ <https://www.hotcars.com/problems-with-tesla-nobody-talks-about/>

One of the most notable characteristics of every **Tesla** is their futuristic **door handles** that pop out with ease. The higher-end models have nice, metal **handles with** chrome finishes.

However, if you happen to compare, say, a Model S to a Model 3, you'll immediately notice the lack of strength behind the latter's **handles**.

[DIY MS Door Handle Repair | Tesla Motors Club](#)

< <https://teslamotorsclub.com/tmc/threads/diy-ms-door-handle-repair.137157/>

Tesla may not be interested in pairing a part I didn't buy from them to my car. Worth asking your local service center before spending the money on a **door handle** assembly you may not be able to use. 2. Repairing my already software paired **door handle** assembly ensures I have a long term fix and fully functioning **door handle** for the life of my ...

[Here's How To Permanently Fix Tesla's Door Handle Design Flaw](#)

↳ <https://insideevs.com/news/339384/heres-how-to-permanently-fix-teslas-door-handle-design-flaw/>

Learn about some issues with **Tesla door handles** and how they can be fixed.. Back in February, Car Guru from Rich Rebuilds shared a video about how to fix common **problems with Tesla's door handles** ...

Tesla Model S Door-Handle Failures Still Plague Electric Car ...

◁ https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1098389_tesla-model-s-door-handle-failures-still-plague-electric-car-as-consumer-reports-learns

Tesla Model S **Door-Handle** Failures Still Plague Electric Car, Consumer Reports Learns: UPDATE. "These are unusually high **problem** rates," he added. "The average **problem** rate for locks and latches is less than one-half of 1 percent for each of the model years 2012 through 2014.". The magazine was back on track one day later,...

Door Handle Problems with Tesla Model S - Tesla Owners UK

↳ <https://teslaownersgroup.co.uk/kb/door-handle-problems-tesla-model-s>

Door Handle Problems with Tesla Model S. You can easily check this by seeing if a small slip of paper can be passed between the chrome **handle** and the body of the **door**; it should be able to be passed all around the chrome **handle**. This fault can be fixed with a ranger visit or a visit to your local service centre.

These Are All the Issues Tesla Model 3 Owners Will Deal With ...

◁ <https://www.thedrive.com/news/24944/these-are-all-the-issues-tesla-model-3-owners-will-deal-with-this-winter>

These Are All the Issues **Tesla** Model 3 Owners Will Deal With This Winter Frozen **door handles**, failing wipers, and the undercarriage acting as a snow plow—it won't be a merry season for Model 3 ...

The thing about Tesla door handles - YouTube

◁ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXoiOK8gvw8>

Tesla handles are distinctive, not just because they recess into the **door**, but how they unlatch and how you open the **door**.

[Tesla Ranger Fixed my Door Handle - YouTube](#)

◁ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s69mgBEsjw4>

It's time to get my **door handle** fixed (by a **Tesla** professional), but he is doing it on my driveway and the snow is coming down sideways! Support my vlog on P...

Tesla Model S: Too Many Problems To Recommend, Consumer ...

◁ https://www.greencarreports.com/news/1100561_tesla-model-s-too-many-problems-to-recommend-consumer-reports-says

2015 **Tesla** Model S P85D **door handle**, captured from Consumer Reports video, May 2015 The magazine included about 1,400 Model S owners as part of its Annual Reliability Survey.

What are some problems Tesla owners have? - Quora

◁ <https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-problems-Tesla-owners-have>

1. Long-distance travel in some countries. Depending on where you live, the Model S is not always the best choice for a road trip. I can travel from coast to coast in the US, and have a SuperCharger within range throughout much of the country.

[Model X door handle issue | Tesla Motors Club](#)

< <https://teslamotorsclub.com/tmc/threads/model-x-door-handle-issue.165550/>

Is this something that has happened to anyone else? I've tried googling to find people with similar issues, but can't find anything in the sea of results regarding Model S **door handles** not presenting. If anyone has had this **problem** - is this something I could fix by myself? I'm living in currently unsupported country by **Tesla** in EU.

Temporary Fix - Tesla Model S Door Handle Not Presenting ...

< <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7cCnqHTetc>

To get the **handle** out the initial time, use a stronger tape (like duct tape) placed flat along the **handle** surface. You can pull the **handle** out, then loop like I demonstrate in the video.

Sticky door handle - Tesla Owners Online

< <https://teslaownersonline.com/threads/sticky-door-handle.14203/>

Report: **Tesla** Mobile Service just left. There was a gear tooth missing inside the **door handle** mechanism, it had worn out after 50k miles of use. He replaced the entire **door handle** assembly. My Service guy tells me that I had the old style **door handle**, the latest version (which he installed) doesn't have the wear **problem** mine had.

How Canadians Open Tesla Model 3 Door Handles When They ...

◁ <https://cleantechnica.com/2018/12/18/how-canadians-open-tesla-model-3-handles-when-they-freeze-shut/>

A **Tesla** Model 3 owner up in Canada shows the rest of the world how to open the **handles** on the **Tesla** Model 3 when they freeze shut. The video is paired with a priceless quote that will surely go

...

2015 Tesla Model S Door Handles Didn't Pop Out: 1 Complaints

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https://www.carcomplaints.com/Tesla/Model_S/2015/accessories-exterior/door_handles_didnt_pop_out.shtml

The 2015 **Tesla** Model S has 1 **problems** reported for **door handles** didn't pop out. Average failure mileage is 14,000 miles. CarComplaints.com : Car complaints, car **problems** and defect information

Tesla Model 3 Handles Are Stylish but Are Freezing Shut in ...

◁ <https://www.digitaltrends.com/cars/tesla-model-3-handles-freeze/>

But owners of the cars who are currently living through the polar vortex-induced cold are having a rather old-fashioned **problem**: the **door handles** are freezing in place. ... **Tesla Model 3 handles**

...