



TESLA INSPECTION FACTUAL ATTACHMENT 1 – FIRE RESPOSE AT TOW YARD, MARCH 28, 2018

Mountain View, CA

HWY18FH011

(4 pages)

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On March 28, 2018, the San Mateo Fire Department responded to a call about smoke from personnel at Atlas Towing. Security video shows that fire fighters applied water and foam intermittently from 19:34:02 until 21:08:25. Fire fighters assisting the April group activity stated and the video showed that the water applications would slow or stop the smoke until the target for the water was directed into the open front portion of the battery.

- 19:00:42 Video shows first light traces of smoke from vehicle covered by a white tarp.
- 19:00:46 Atlas Towing employees work in lot without noticing the smoke.
- 19:02:06 Employees notice the smoke and clear the area of other vehicles.
- 19:14:01 San Mateo truck 24 arrives, as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. San Mateo Fire Department 24 at Atlas Towing lot. The Tesla Model X is beneath the white tarp at the upper right, partially concealed by a road sign. Prior to this, the Atlas Towing employees removed three vehicles from the lot.

- 19:33:54 Initial use of water to wet tarp and spray into missing rear window.
- 19:38:20 Hose pressure used to partially remove tarp. The front portion over the battery catches on the right side of the vehicle. Water is streamed into the interior of the vehicle.
- 19:41:51 Still half covered and smoking while water is applied.
- 19:51:41 Fire fighter stops applying water. Smoke stopped.
- 19:52:42 First flicker of flame on white tarp behind road sign obscuring view is near the right front of the vehicle.
- 19:53:30 Open flame becomes visible at the right front of the vehicle grows higher than the road sign.

Note: With diminishing daylight, the video changed from color to black and white as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Security video recording of a San Mateo fire truck and Tesla Model X, the front of which is located in the upper right, behind a road sign. The vehicle is partially covered by a white tarp.

Flame was visible at the front of the vehicle, as shown in Figure 3, and fire fighters applied water to suppress the fire as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 3. Cropped close-up of partially covered Tesla Model X with circle added around open flame.



Figure 4. Fire fighter putting water on source of flame shows location at front right of vehicle.

- 20:03:58 Tarp is pulled nearly free by second fire fighter with pole, allowing water to be directly placed on open front of battery.
- 20:21:18 Final time that fire fighting stops applying water. Smoke does not resume. Fire fighters retrieve and stow equipment and monitor vehicle.
- 21:54:20 Fire truck leaves scene.