## The situation is this. If your self-driving gets into an accident (while in autonomous driving mode, that is), who is held legally responsible? Is it you, the car’s owner—even if you weren’t physically driving? Is it the car’s manufacturer? Of the developer of the auto driving software? Where does the proverbial buck stop?

The answer is as head-scratching as the question itself. To put it simply, there is no distinct party to blame for the accident caused. In my opinion, both the driver using the self-driving car and the car manufacturer is to blame equally. And as far as my knowledge, there are still no laws for accidents caused by such smart cars. So, there is still a lot to research and implement on this field.

This case got even more serious when the imagination turned into reality with Tesla’s 2 recent fatal Crashes in Florida. In one of the crashes, the driver was killed due to a massive fire and in other, a 2018 Model 3 crashed into a semi-trailer. Unfortunately, in both of the accidents, the driver lost his life. A newspaper revealed that the Tesla battery repeatedly caught fire after being transported to a towing facility. Also, the investigation of NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) and NHTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) since 2017 reported two primary issues: the role of Tesla’s driver assistance technology Autopilot in accidents and some significant battery fires in electric vehicles after crashes, including cases if battery reigniting. In 2017, NTSB revealed that Tesla lacks proper safeguards which allowed drivers to use the system outside of the environment for which it was designed and the system gave far too much leeway to the driver to divert his attention.

If we hear from some of Tesla drivers, they say they are being able to lay off their hands from their steering wheel for extended periods while in Autopilot mode. But Tesla instructs its drivers to pay attention and keep their hands on the steering wheel when using Autopilot. Tesla answered that its Autopilot mode helps in reducing drivers overall workload by steering, braking and accelerating in almost all type of lanes and also changes lanes on most highways to overtake cars or to navigate to interchanges and exits. In addition, Tesla also suggests not to use Autopilot on highways with very sharp turns or absent, ambiguous or absent lane marks.

So far, we have come to know that there have been some flaws and issues with the car and there have been some instructions negligence from the drivers. These both are accountable for the accidents that caused such tragic deaths of people. So, we just can’t put the blame on only one of them. Both parties must be approached equally and we need improvements from both sides for a safe future of self-driving cars. And also, we are likely in need of some new laws on this to keep order.