

Tesla's 'rolling stop' feature mimicked dumb humans — and got 54K EVs recalled



Tesla's 'rolling stop' feature mimicked dumb humans — and got 54K EVs recalled

Newstex Blogs

TheNextWeb.com

February 4, 2022 Friday 4:06 PM EST

Copyright 2022 Newstex LLC All Rights Reserved

Length: 998 words

Byline: Ioanna Lykiardopoulou

Body

Feb 04, 2022(TheNextWeb.com: <http://thenextweb.com> Delivered by Newstex)

Tesla is recalling nearly 54,000 vehicles in the US, as a recent **Full Self-Driving** (FSD) Beta update allows its cars to perform a 'rolling stop.' This means the vehicle doesn't come to a complete halt at a stop sign, instead moving slowly through it.

Unsurprisingly, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a safety recall[1] of the feature, which it deemed dangerous:

Failing to stop at a stop sign can increase the risk of a crash.

Thanks for that, NHTSA.

The background:

According to the NHTSA, **Tesla** introduced the rolling stop functionality last October[2] through a 'limited access' over-the-air update.

As part of this, **Tesla**[3] owners could choose between different profiles for their car's self-driving features: Chill, Average, and **Assertive**.

The **Assertive** mode was accompanied with a warning that the vehicle 'may perform rolling stops.'

I guess 'Road Rage Mode' didn't fit on the screen pic.twitter.com/6pJNFvJXA[4]

— David Zipper (@DavidZipper) January 9, 2022[5]

The NHTSA's report specifies the rolling stop feature 'allows the vehicle to travel through all-way-stop intersections at up to 5.6 mph before coming to a complete stop' — if certain conditions are met first.

The most important are:

Tesla's 'rolling stop' feature mimicked dumb humans — and got 54K EVs recalled

No vehicles, pedestrians, or cyclists are detected near the intersection. The vehicle has sufficient visibility when approaching the intersection.

What does this mean for **Tesla**?

The EV maker has decided to voluntarily (not that there was any other option) recall the functionality from the affected 2016-2022 Model S and Model X, 2017-2022 Model 3, and 2020-2022 Model Y vehicles.

This doesn't mean that owners of these vehicles will have to take any physical action. **Tesla** will release another over-the-air update that will disable the rolling stop feature, starting in early February.

Musk's snark and contradiction

Naturally, Elon rushed to defend **Tesla's** software and — why the hell not? — insult a journalist for 'misreporting.'

cue the moron journalists completely misreporting this story

it did not run any stop signs due to this issue. it slowed down to 2 miles per hour rather than 0 miles per hour if there was no one there to maximize comfort

this was by design! not a mistake. □ @elonmusk[6] □ pic.twitter .com/2BR52Rvm5y[7];

— Whole Mars Catalog (@WholeMarsBlog) February 1, 2022[8]

He's actually a lobbyist, not a journalist. There are many who pose as the latter while behaving like the former. No integrity.

Indeed, there were no safety issues. The car simply slowed to ~2 mph & continued forward if clear view with no cars or pedestrians.

— Elon Musk (@elonmusk) February 1, 2022[9]

Indeed, **Tesla** notified the NHTSA that, as of January 27, 2022, it's not aware of 'any warranty claims, field reports, crashes, injuries or fatalities related to this condition.'

But Musk's nonchalant justification of the software raises deeper concerns.

During **Tesla's** Q4 2021 earnings call[10], the celebrity CEO predicted that FSD will be safer than human drivers by the end of 2022:

I would be shocked if we do not achieve **Full Self-Driving** safer than a human this year. I would be shocked.

But programming an autonomous software to take the same kinds of shortcuts a human driver does undermines the whole 'autonomous cars will be safer' argument.

Especially since we're still unsure autonomous systems are able to make the judgements a human driver can when it comes to rule bending.

And there's another issue here: it looks like the feature was designed to break laws. Because, you guessed it, performing a rolling stop in the US is, well, illegal. And it'd get you a nice fat ticket.

So why would **Tesla** enable a feature that's technically illegal?

Was it a programming oversight? Does the company believe that 'stopping' actually means 'slowing down?' Or does it simply think it has enough money to be above the law?

No matter the answer, there's one thing I know for sure: we'll never trust an automated vehicle that makes human mistakes — and we don't need a bunch of rogue Teslas deliberately breaking road laws.

[1]: <https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rci/2022/RCLRPT-22V037-4462.PDF> [2]:
https://twitter.com/tesla_raj/status/1452152897798426625 [3]: <https://thenextweb.com/topic/tesla> [4]:
<https://t.co/6pJNFvrJXA> [5]: https://twitter.com/DavidZipper/status/1480218411162550273?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw [6]:
https://twitter.com/elonmusk?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw [7]: <https://t.co/2BR52Rvm5y> [8]:
https://twitter.com/WholeMarsBlog/status/1488590960053276672?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw [9]:
https://twitter.com/elonmusk/status/1488615123946246151?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw [10]:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMA6myXpfqI>

Tesla 's 'rolling stop' feature mimicked dumb humans — and got 54K EVs recalled

The views expressed in any and all content distributed by Newstex and its re-distributors (collectively, the "Newstex Authoritative Content") are solely those of the respective author(s) and not necessarily the views of Newstex or its re-distributors. Stories from such authors are provided "AS IS," with no warranties, and confer no rights. The material and information provided in Newstex Authoritative Content are for general information only and should not, in any respect, be relied on as professional advice. Newstex Authoritative Content is not "read and approved" before it is posted. Accordingly, neither Newstex nor its re-distributors make any claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained therein or linked to from such content, nor do they take responsibility for any aspect of such content. The Newstex Authoritative Content shall be construed as author-based content and commentary. Accordingly, no warranties or other guarantees are offered as to the quality of the opinions, commentary or anything else appearing in such Newstex Authoritative Content. Newstex and its re-distributors expressly reserve the right to delete stories at its and their sole discretion.

Load-Date: February 4, 2022

End of Document