

Melbourne Today



# Herald Sun

Subscribe

Sign In



My News

Local

Victoria

National

World

Opinion

Business

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Sport



[Motoring](#) > [Motoring News](#)

## Flooding exposes 'extreme risk' of new electric cars

American authorities are urging owners of high-tech cars to think carefully about where vehicles are parked in a storm, following a series of house fires.

David McCowen

less than 2 min read October 17, 2022 - 8:22AM



American authorities are urging owners of high-tech cars to think carefully about where vehicles are parked in a storm, following a series of house fires.

### Motoring News

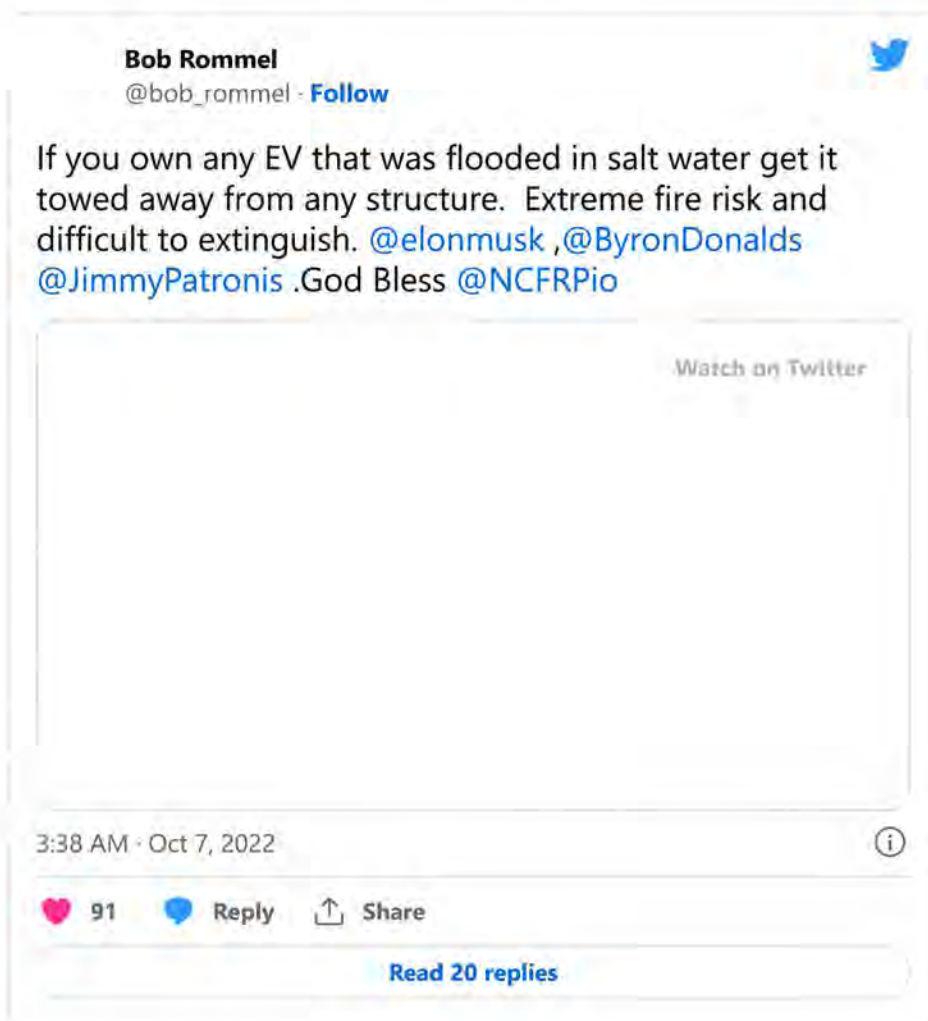
Don't miss out on the headlines from Motoring News. Followed categories will be added to My News.

Follow

[Electric cars](#) damaged by floodwater have been linked to several house fires following [Hurricane Ian](#) in North America.

# Released under FOI

Powerful batteries in high-tech electric cars have caught fire after being compromised by saltwater from storm surges in Florida.



Jimmy Patronis, Florida's chief financial officer and state fire marshal, told [NewsNation](#) that "we learn something from every single natural disaster, we truly do".

"And what we are learning from this one is EVs are not compatible with salt water.

"When they become inoperable, when they have shorts, when they have corrosion and they are in your garage, as a lot of cars were because of this storm surge event, they become now a fire hazard for your house."



# Released under FOI

many EVs were left behind? How many are compromised?

**Bob Rommel** @bob\_rommel

This house survived Hurricane Ian with very little damage that was until the Tesla in the garage caught on fire. House is now destroyed.  
@JimmyPatronis @ByronDonalds @FoxNews

11:28 AM · Oct 11, 2022



100



Reply



Share

[Read 18 replies](#)

Patronis told NewsMax that four electric cars caused problems in his area following the storm.

Firefighters found that electric cars damaged by saltwater would reignite multiple times.

Florida House of Representatives member Bob Rommel said electric cars posed an “extreme fire risk” and urged owners to have flood-damaged cars towed away from their houses.







# Released under FOI




Electric cars have caught fire in Florida following Hurricane Ian. Photo: Twitter/ Bob Rommel

America’s National Highway Transport Safety Administration said flooded vehicles with lithium-ion battery packs should be moved “at least 50 feet from any structures, vehicles or combustibles”.

**Jimmy Patronis**    
@JimmyPatronis · [Follow](#)




There’s a ton of EVs disabled from Ian. As those batteries corrode, fires start. That’s a new challenge that our firefighters haven’t faced before. At least on this kind of scale. [#HurricaneIan](#)

[Watch on Twitter](#)

1:52 AM · Oct 7, 2022 

[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

---

 17.3K  Reply  Share

[Read 1.6K replies](#)

# Released under FOI

The NHTSA said fires in vehicles flooded with saltwater occur as “salt bridges can form within the battery pack and provide a path of short circuit and self heating. This can lead to fire ignition.”

“The time period for this transition from self heating to fire ignition can vary greatly.

“Lithium-ion vehicle battery fires have been observed both rapidly igniting and igniting several weeks after battery damage occurred.”

Originally published as [Flooding exposes ‘extreme risk’ of new electric cars](#)



## More related stories



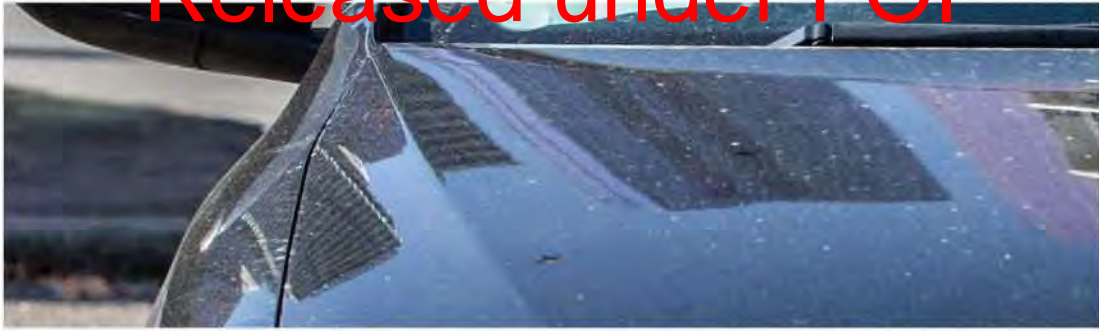
Motoring News

### Luxury machine the first of its kind

This prestige machine breaks new ground for its manufacturer, combining impressive performance with innovative technology.



# Released under FOI



On The Road

## Uber's next big move Down Under

Uber users across Australia will see a change to what's available to them by mid-next year as the company announces a big change.



# Herald Sun



Subscribe

Sign In

### Membership

Subscription packages

Group/Corporate subscriptions

Herald Sun app

Today's Paper

Newsletters

Rewards

### About Us

About us

Meet the team

Job Opportunities

Code of conduct

Subscription FAQs

Subscription terms  
Financial Hardship Policy

### Contact Us

Help & support

Story Tips

FAQs

Letter to the Editor

Photo Sales

Advertise with us

### Our News Network

The Daily Telegraph

The Courier Mail

The Advertiser

news.com.au

The Australian

The Mercury

Geelong Advertiser

The Cairns Post

Gold Coast Bulletin

Townsville Bulletin

The Chronicle

NT News

The Weekly Times

CODE Sports

### Our Partners

Buy Search Sell Classifieds

Find Your Local

Foxsports

Foxtel

Hipages

Kayo

My Tributes

Punters

odds.com.au

racenet.com.au

Sky News

Coupons

Brain Gains

### Our Apps





# Released under FOI

more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out. Sometimes our articles will try to help you find the right product at the right price. We may receive payment from third parties for publishing this content or when you make a purchase through the links on our sites.

Nationwide News Pty Ltd © 2022. All times AEDT (GMT +11). Powered by WordPress.com VIP

[Privacy policy](#)   [Relevant ads opt-out](#)   [Cookie policy](#)   [Terms of use](#)