

Frequently Asked Questions

Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe is dedicated to providing efficient and accurate information.

Our frequently asked questions aim to offer additional context regarding the recent fire and the "[Mission Rebuild](#)" campaign. As this is an evolving situation, we will keep updating this information to ensure that our global community stays informed and involved.

1. What was the extent of the damage caused by the fire at Tesla Science Center?

The current investigation into the fire damage indicates that the northern side of the building, including the roof, steel girders, and a portion of a wall, has been affected. Our structural and historical engineers are conducting a comprehensive assessment, with results expected in the coming days. While most of the laboratory's core structure remains intact, some elements have been irreparably lost.

2. What specific areas of the Center were most affected by the fire?

The fire primarily damaged the northern side of the building, including partial destruction of the roof, chimney, and cupola. Currently, water damage from firefighting efforts poses a significant short-term risk. We urgently need funds to seal the roof and dry the building before winter sets in.

3. Were there any injuries or casualties due to the fire?

During the fire, a firefighter sustained minor bruising after falling off a ladder. We are relieved and grateful that there were no serious injuries during the incident or in the firefighting efforts.

4. What caused the fire at Tesla Science Center?

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Arson has been ruled out.

5. Is there an estimated timeline for when the damage assessment will be completed?

The fire, occurring over a holiday weekend, initially delayed the arrival of our engineers. However, they managed to conduct a preliminary assessment the following day and are now preparing a more detailed report. This upcoming assessment will provide us with a clear action plan for preserving the laboratory.

6. What immediate actions were taken to secure the site after the fire?

The site is under continuous monitoring by security, volunteers, and team members. Temporary fencing and warning signs have been put in place to secure appropriate areas, with access restricted to unauthorized individuals, especially in the regulated asbestos work area. A private security firm has been hired to monitor the site and ensure safety. Volunteers have also contributed to enhancing

site security. Structural and historical engineers have assessed the damage and are developing plans for the immediate preservation of the laboratory.

7. How will the fire impact the planned \$20-million restoration and redevelopment project?

We are dedicated to restoring the Wardencllyffe laboratory of Nikola Tesla. This commitment, however, means that our construction project will be delayed as we address immediate short-term needs such as repairing the roof and walls to maintain the building's structural integrity. Moving forward, we aim to preserve as much of the original laboratory as possible, despite the loss of a portion in the fire. We are devoted to maintaining historical accuracy and recognize the laboratory as a symbol of hope and innovation globally.

8. Are there any plans to modify the restoration and redevelopment project in light of the fire?

Due to the damage, we need to modify our plans for Nikola Tesla's Wardencllyffe laboratory. While many core elements remain intact, some parts lost to the fire will require reconstruction. We remain dedicated to the historical preservation of the building and will strive to restore the laboratory as accurately as possible.

9. What steps are being taken to ensure the structural integrity of the buildings post-fire?

A thorough assessment of the damage will be conducted by a site engineer, historical architect, structural engineer, and other relevant authorities. This assessment will guide steps to ensure structural integrity.

10. How can the community and supporters assist in the recovery and restoration efforts?

We have a crowdfunding campaign to gather support from our global community for this emergency. Here's the link to our funding campaign, called the "[Mission Rebuild](#)" fund.

11. What measures are being taken to prevent similar incidents in the future?

As the investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing, Tesla Science Center has enhanced its security and monitoring measures. Understanding the cause of the fire will inform our response and help prevent such incidents in the future.

12. How will Tesla Science Center keep the public informed about the recovery progress?

Tesla Science Center will provide regular updates through our website and social media channels.

13. What does this incident mean for the legacy and preservation of Nikola Tesla's work?

The recent incident will delay construction and add complexities, but we are steadfast in our mission to develop Nikola Tesla's last laboratory into a global science center. This center will honor Tesla's

innovative spirit, offer educational experiences, advance new technologies, and include the Tesla Museum. Our vision is a world that recognizes Tesla's contributions, is inspired by his scientific courage, and is committed to improving humanity. Tesla's legacy spans the past, present, and future. We now call upon our community to help raise funds to stabilize the laboratory, ensuring it remains a symbol of innovation and inspiration for future generations of thinkers and inventors, contributing to the betterment of humanity.

14. Will this incident affect Tesla Science Center's educational programs and public events?

We remain dedicated to our mission, including our education programs and public events. On Saturday, December 2, from 3 to 6 PM, we invite the community to our annual [tree lighting event](#). We'll be available to answer questions, keeping in mind that this is an evolving situation. As more information becomes available, we will maintain transparency.

15. Were any historical artifacts or documents related to Nikola Tesla damaged in the fire?

No historical artifacts or documents were lost or damaged in the fire, except for the laboratory itself, which is a significant artifact of Nikola Tesla's work. Fortunately, Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe's collection remained intact and undamaged.

16. How will Tesla Science Center ensure the preservation of the site's historical significance during the recovery process?

Our main objective is to maintain the historical integrity of the Wardenclyffe laboratory. To achieve this, we are collaborating with a historical architect, a structural engineer, the History and Collections committee, and our board of directors, ensuring that our actions contribute effectively to the laboratory's preservation.

17. How will the fire affect the financial situation of Tesla Science Center?

The redevelopment project has now become more complex and costly. We are seeking funds for immediate preservation to prevent further damage to the laboratory. While we work with our insurance provider, community support is crucial to fund the emergency stabilization work. Details about the crowdfunding effort are available on the ["Mission Rebuild" fund](#) page.

18. How can the public access updates and information about the site's recovery and future plans?

Updates and information can be accessed on Tesla Science Center's website and through their social media channels.

19. What role will volunteers and the local community play in the recovery process?

Volunteers have consistently played a vital role in our organization. Following the fire, many reached out to offer assistance. We encourage potential volunteers to sign up on our website, where they can

find various opportunities to get involved.

20. Will there be any environmental impact due to the fire, and how is it being addressed?

Environmental assessments are ongoing following the fire at Tesla Science Center. The original laboratory building, surveyed in 2014, had most accessible interior and some exterior asbestos materials removed. The main roof, which contains 0.5% to 2.2% asbestos, remained intact. While the fire could potentially release fibers from the non-friable roofing material, most of the roofing was not burned, with some intact and much peeled back by the force of water used during firefighting. The rainfall during and after the fire is believed to have helped minimize the spread of any airborne fibers. Remediation efforts will be guided by these assessments to address any environmental impact.

21. How will this incident affect the ongoing fundraising campaigns for Tesla Science Center?

Tesla Science Center is initiating an emergency fire restoration fund on Indiegogo to address the immediate needs following the laboratory fire. This initiative – called the ["Mission Rebuild" fund --](#) will primarily focus on the repair and restoration of the Laboratory roof, chimney, and cupola. Additionally, it will support the remediation of any damage to the bricks, walls, and windows within the laboratory, facilitating continued progress on the site's rehabilitation.

22. Are there any plans for a temporary exhibit or location to continue educational outreach during the restoration?

Efforts are underway to update Tesla Science Center's website, ensuring users have easy access to the latest information. Alongside these updates, plans are progressing to open the Eugene Sayan Visitors Center, where materials including information about the fire and its impact will be made available, keeping visitors informed about recent developments.

23. What support has Tesla Science Center received from local government and historical preservation societies?

Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe collaborates closely with local elected officials across various government levels dedicated to supporting this nationally recognized historic landmark. Recently, Tesla Science Center has received support from New York State, Suffolk County, and federal sources, including the National Park Services' "Save America's Treasures" grant. The Center also maintains relationships with private foundations such as the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation and the Claire Friedlander Family Foundation, which contribute to its preservation and development efforts.

24. How will this incident influence the long-term vision and strategy of Tesla Science Center?

We remain committed to developing Nikola Tesla's last laboratory into a global science center that honors his innovative spirit, offers unique learning experiences, advances new technologies, and includes the Tesla Museum. The recent developments will delay our construction project as we

prioritize immediate needs and adjust our strategic planning, including various benchmarks and deliverables.

25. Is there a contingency plan for preserving the site's historical artifacts in case of future emergencies?

Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe is in a fortunate position as the restoration of the laboratory had not begun before the incident. Presently, all historical artifacts are safely stored offsite, in accordance with the standards set by the History and Collections Committee.

26. What assistance, if any, is needed from the public or experts in the field of historical preservation?

Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe is collaborating with a team of historical preservation experts, including historical architect Mark Thaler of Thaler, Reilly, Wilson, and is supported by an active History and Collections Committee with local historical expertise. They welcome assistance from individuals with qualifications and experience in historical preservation. If you possess skills or knowledge in this field and wish to contribute, you are encouraged to reach out via email at info@teslasciencecenter.org. A team member will respond to discuss potential involvement and how your expertise could benefit the preservation efforts at the Center. This collaboration aims to ensure the effective and respectful preservation of Nikola Tesla's last remaining laboratory -- and its historical significance.

27. How will Tesla Science Center continue to engage with its international supporters in light of this incident?

Tesla Science Center is committed to preserving Tesla's legacy as a global entity, recognizing the crucial role of international support in its endeavors. Following the incident, the Center is maintaining active dialogues with individuals from various countries, including Serbia and Croatia, to explore avenues of involvement and support. This approach is part of a broader strategy to strengthen and expand global engagement. The Center aims to foster international collaborations and partnerships, leveraging digital platforms and social media to keep supporters worldwide informed and involved in its projects and developments. This ongoing global engagement is vital for the Center's mission to honor and preserve Nikola Tesla's unique legacy.

28. What lessons has Tesla Science Center learned from this incident?

Tesla Science Center has reinforced its commitment to the restoration and preservation of Nikola Tesla's last remaining laboratory following the incident. This event has underscored the importance of robust policies and procedures in safeguarding Tesla's legacy. The experience has informed the Center's approach to future practices, emphasizing enhanced safety measures and preservation strategies. These measures are crucial in ensuring progress toward the Center's goals and maintaining the historical significance of Wardencllyffe.