# Tyre‑laden lorry blaze forces M25 closure and causes miles‑visible smoke column



A lorry laden with tyres went up in flames on the M25 on 13 August 2025, producing a vast plume of black smoke and forcing the anti‑clockwise carriageway to be stopped between Junction 30 (Lakeside/DartCharge) and Junction 29 (Romford). According to the original report in the Express, emergency services closed the affected stretch while crews tackled the blaze and a diversion route was put in place for motorists.

Essex County Fire and Rescue were at the scene, having been called to the incident shortly before midday, and confirmed that the vehicle’s load was alight. Local reporting and social media posts showed heavy flames and thick smoke rising from the carriageway, prompting swift attendance by multiple fire appliances. National Highways also tweeted that crews were working with firefighters to manage the situation.

The closure created widespread disruption on the ring road. National Highways warned of delays of at least 30 minutes, with some outlets and on‑the‑ground reporting putting the worst delays nearer to an hour as recovery and traffic management operations began. Diversions were organised to relieve pressure on the carriageway and plans were put in place to move vehicles trapped within the queues to allow emergency access and recovery teams to work.

Photographs circulating on social platforms and published by regional outlets showed the smoke column could be seen for miles, underlining both the intensity of the blaze and the visibility risk for drivers on surrounding routes. Several reports relayed National Highways’ caution that, once the immediate emergency was dealt with, the carriageway might require resurfacing because of heat damage from the fire, a remediation that would extend disruption into the day while contractors assess and repair the surface.

Operational sources and live traffic blogs logged lane closures, recovery work and the creation of alternative routes as traffic authorities sought to restore normal running. Some reports suggested that, depending on the progress of recovery and any necessary repairs, normal traffic conditions could return by mid‑afternoon, but motorists were advised to expect ongoing delays while safety checks and clear‑up continued.

The episode follows a pattern familiar on the M25, where even contained vehicle fires can trigger lengthy tailbacks. Regional coverage of a separate incident earlier in the year — a car fire on a slip road near Junction 29 — noted that crews extinguished the blaze within an hour but motorists still experienced around 30 minutes of delays while recovery and clearance took place. Such cases illustrate how quickly a single vehicle fire can cascade into broader network disruption on Britain’s busiest orbital road.

Motorists were urged to avoid the area where possible, to allow extra journey time and to follow diversion signs and official travel updates. According to reports from National Highways and Essex County Fire and Rescue, emergency and recovery crews remained at the scene working to make the carriageway safe and to clear the route for traffic to resume.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094841/m25-live-huge-fire-updates), [[2]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/travel-chaos-m25-closed-lorry-fire-close-carriageway-5Hjd8q2_2/), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/m25-dartford-crossing-romford-thames-hgv-b1242776.html), [[4]](https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/travel-chaos-m25-closed-lorry-fire-close-carriageway-5Hjd8q2_2/), [[4]](https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/), [[5]](https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094841/m25-live-huge-fire-updates), [[2]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/travel-chaos-m25-closed-lorry-fire-close-carriageway-5Hjd8q2_2/), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/m25-dartford-crossing-romford-thames-hgv-b1242776.html), [[5]](https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/m25-dartford-crossing-romford-thames-hgv-b1242776.html), [[4]](https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/), [[7]](https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/36268032/m25-closed-traffic-car-fire/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/), [[5]](https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/m25-dartford-crossing-romford-thames-hgv-b1242776.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[6]](https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/24036311.m25-j29-j30-delays-car-fire-slip-road-near-upminster/), [[5]](https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/travel-chaos-m25-closed-lorry-fire-close-carriageway-5Hjd8q2_2/), [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094841/m25-live-huge-fire-updates), [[4]](https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/), [[5]](https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2094841/m25-live-huge-fire-updates> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lbc.co.uk/article/travel-chaos-m25-closed-lorry-fire-close-carriageway-5Hjd8q2_2/> - LBC reported that a major lorry fire on the M25 led to an anticlockwise closure between Junction 30 (Lakeside/DartCharge) and Junction 29 (Romford) on 13 August 2025. Emergency services attended after calls at about 12:00 BST and thick black smoke was seen rising from the carriageway. Essex County Fire and Rescue confirmed the vehicle was carrying tyres that were alight, producing large amounts of smoke. National Highways warned of delays of at least thirty minutes and said diversions would follow, estimating normal traffic by mid‑afternoon. The piece included social media posts from ECFRS and advised motorists to avoid the area.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/m25-dartford-crossing-romford-thames-hgv-b1242776.html> - The Evening Standard covered the M25 incident, reporting the anticlockwise carriageway was closed between Junctions 29 (Romford) and 30 (Lakeside) after a lorry caught fire near the Dartford Crossing on 13 August 2025. Fire appliances were at the scene and National Highways confirmed Essex County Fire and Rescue were tackling the blaze. The report said thick smoke could be seen for miles, that delays of up to sixty minutes were expected, and that diversions were organised to relieve traffic. The article quoted National Highways warning the carriageway might need resurfacing and urged drivers to check travel updates before planning journeys.
4. <https://www.perspectivemedia.com/m25-closed-near-dartford-crossing-after-lorry-carrying-tyres-catches-fire/> - Perspective Media reported the M25 was closed in both directions between Junction 29 (Romford) and Junction 30 (DartCharge/Lakeside) after a HGV laden with car tyres caught fire on 13 August 2025. The outlet quoted a National Highways: East post confirming Essex County Fire and Rescue were working on scene and warning of delays of at least sixty minutes on the anti‑clockwise carriageway. Photographs and social posts showed heavy flames and a large plume of smoke. Perspective noted a diversion route was created, plans were in place to move trapped vehicles, and National Highways expected the carriageway to require resurfacing today.
5. <https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/m25-traffic-live-updates-vehicle-8480028> - Essex Live ran a live blog describing lengthy delays after a lorry fire on the M25 near Brentwood on 13 August 2025. Reporters noted traffic had been stopped on the anti‑clockwise carriageway and National Highways estimated delays of thirty to sixty minutes. Essex County Fire and Rescue were confirmed at the scene tackling the blaze and said the vehicle’s load was burning, producing significant smoke. The blog logged lane closures, recovery work, diversion details and reported motorists held within queues, advising drivers to allow extra time while emergency crews and contractors worked to make the carriageway safe if possible today.
6. <https://www.romfordrecorder.co.uk/news/24036311.m25-j29-j30-delays-car-fire-slip-road-near-upminster/> - The Romford Recorder reported an M25 incident where a car fire on a slip road at Junction 29 near Upminster caused anti‑clockwise delays towards Junction 30. The January article said Essex Fire Service attended shortly after the blaze, extinguishing the vehicle and leaving after an hour. Motorists experienced tailbacks of around half an hour, with National Highways warning of up to forty‑minute delays as recovery and clear‑up continued. The piece quoted eyewitness accounts of stationary traffic and confirmed firefighters had quickly dealt with the blaze, underlining how vehicle fires on slip roads can rapidly disrupt journeys on the ring road.
7. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/36268032/m25-closed-traffic-car-fire/> - The Sun reported the M25 was closed anticlockwise between Junction 30 (Lakeside) and Junction 29 (Romford) after a lorry carrying tyres caught fire on 13 August 2025, producing thick black smoke visible for miles. It cited National Highways saying Essex County Fire and Rescue were attending and warned of delays of at least thirty minutes with diversions to follow. The article included images and social posts showing flames and a large smoke plume, noted authorities expected disruption and possible carriageway resurfacing, and advised motorists to avoid the area while emergency and recovery crews worked to make the road safe today.