



U.S. Department
of Transportation
National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 335

Date Received

Repository ☐

03-July-2003

Reference No.
10022703

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

ONALASKA

State TX

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☒ YES ☒ NO
In the absence of an authorized signature, your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner Date 7/1/03

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (located at bottom of windshield on driver's side)
1D7HA18N523

Make
DODGE

Model
RAM

Model Year
2002

Date Purchased

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

DEMONSTRAND

Engine: 4.7L
No. Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner

Dealer's City

CONROE

State TX

Zip Code

MAGNUM V8

Transmission Type

☒ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

☒ Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code
140000 AIR BAGS

Multiple Failure: AIRBAGS

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
25-MAY-2003

Failure Mileage
11000

Failure Speed

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Michelin

Tire Model (Name or Number)

P265/70R17

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)

☐ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

Fire

Number of Persons Injured

Number of Deaths

Reported to Police

☒ Yes ☐ No

☐ Yes ☒ No

2

1

YES

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e., parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

WHILE TRAVELING AT 50 THE RIGHT FRONT WHEEL SLIGHTLY TOUCHED THE GRAVEL ON AN UNEVEN PARKWAY, AND CAUSED THE DRIVER TO LOSE CONTROL OF VEHICLE, VEHICLE FLIPPED AND CRASHED. UPON IMPACT, AIR BAGS FAILED TO DEPLOY. THE PASSENGER WAS KILLED.

SEE ATTACHED STATEMENT

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

To: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

From: [REDACTED]

Date: July 1, 2003

Re: Vehicle Owner Questionnaire
2002 Dodge Ram Quad Cab Truck
Vin No: 1D7HA18N52J [REDACTED]

Tire I.D. 20 Inch Michelin - P265/70R17 BSW All Season

This is a narrative description of the incident on May 25, 2003 which you have requested as a result of the complaint that I filed on June 9, 2003. This is considered as an attachment to your form to identify the actual accident.

I was traveling on Hwy 356 on Sunday, May 25, 2003 at 6:45 p.m. in the evening when my right front tire slightly went off the road into a gravel driveway entrance. My passengers were my friends, [REDACTED] of Mesquite, Texas and [REDACTED] of Missouri City, Texas. [REDACTED] was in the front passenger seat and [REDACTED] in the rear seat. When the tire left the road I turned my wheel back to the left to get back onto the road. The truck seemed to fish tail in the rear and we collided head on into a concrete culvert, flipped end over end and then rolled over upside down into a ditch. No one was ejected from the vehicle as the police and medical reports have suggested. Neither of the airbags deployed. [REDACTED] was killed and [REDACTED] was injured. They were both life flighted to Memorial Herman Hospital in Houston, Texas. [REDACTED] died at 8:50 p.m. and [REDACTED] remained in the hospital for approximately 3 days. I was transported to the local hospital with less serious injuries.

[REDACTED], who is the husband of [REDACTED], has obtained an attorney for the purposes of holding Daimler Chrysler liable for his wife's death. The attorney hired an independent engineer to inspect the vehicle. I was with him for 3 ½ hours during his investigation and his verbal report to me was that there was no reason for airbags to have not deployed and that [REDACTED] would be alive today had they done so. He also advised me that the wheels on my truck did not help. He said that with the size of them, the manufacturers should redesign the chassis because of the change in the center of gravity causing the truck to be unstable.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

July 1, 2003

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I also filed a formal complaint with the Product Liability Division of Daimler Chrysler on June 5, 2003 by calling Bobbie at 1-800-992-1997. She took my statement and gave me a reference number of 11328475. She said that because of [REDACTED]'s death she would be turning it over to a Special Investigation department but unfortunately could not give me a time frame as to when an investigator would be out to see the vehicle. To date, I have had no further contact by Daimler Chrysler.

I am returning your Questionnaire to you along with the other information you have requested and sending a copy of the forms to Mr. [REDACTED]'s attorney.

We have refused to let the insurance company take the vehicle pending other investigators who should have already inspected it. To date, no one other than Mr. [REDACTED]'s independent investigator has been to the vehicle location.

Cordially,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Onalaska, Texas [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FATAL - 1 Killed

LOR 327-6858 3:35

TEXAS PEACE OFFICER'S ACCIDENT REPORT (REV. 6/1/81)

MAIL TO: ACCIDENT RECORDS, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PO BOX 9067, AUSTIN, TX 78773-0306

PLACE WHERE ACCIDENT OCCURRED **Polk**

COUNTY **Polk** CITY OR TOWN **Onalaska**

IF ACCIDENT WAS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS, INDICATE DISTANCE FROM NEAREST TOWN **2** MILES NORTH ☒ SOUTH ☐ EAST ☐ WEST ☐ OF CITY OR TOWN

ROAD ON WHICH ACCIDENT OCCURRED **FM 356** CONSTR. ZONE ☐ YES ☒ NO SPEED LIMIT **55**

INTERSECTING STREET OR RR XING NUMBER **1** CONSTR. ZONE ☐ YES ☒ NO SPEED LIMIT **706**

NOT AT INTERSECTION ☐ YES ☒ NO OF **706**

LOC. _____

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

LOC. _____

CODE _____

SEVERITY _____

FAT. REC. _____

DR. REC. _____

WPS NO. _____

DATE OF ACCIDENT **05-25** DAY OF WEEK **Sunday** HOUR **6:45** A.M. ☒ P.M. ☐ IF EXACTLY NOON OR MIDNIGHT, SO STATE

UNIT NO. 1 - MOTOR VEHICLE VEHICLE IDENT. NO. **1D7HA18N52** IF BODY STYLE - VAN OR BUS, INDICATE SEATING CAPACITY _____

YEAR **2002** COLOR & MAKE **Gry/Dodge** MODEL NAME **Ram 1500** BODY STYLE **4-dr P/U** LICENSE PLATE **04 TX**

DRIVER'S NAME **[REDACTED]** ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) **Onalaska, TX**

DRIVER'S LICENSE **TX** DOB **03-02-47** RACE **W** SEX **F** OCCUPATION **Retired**

SPECIMEN TAKEN (ALCOHOL/DRUG ANALYSIS) 1-BREATH 2-BLOOD 3-OTHER 4-NONE 5-REFUSED **2** ALCOHOL/DRUG ANALYSIS RESULT **Unk** PEACE OFFICER, EMS DRIVER, FIRE FIGHTER OR EMERGENCY? ☐ YES ☒ NO

LESSOR ☒ OWNER ☐ **Same** ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) **12-PD-7**

LIABILITY INSURANCE ☒ YES ☐ NO **Mid-Century Ins CO of TX 079122256** VEHICLE DAMAGE RATING **2-R&T-7**

UNIT NO. 2 - MOTOR VEHICLE ☐ TRAIN ☐ PEDALCYCLIST ☐ TOWED ☐ PEDESTRIAN ☐ OTHER ☐ VEHICLE IDENT. NO. _____ IF BODY STYLE - VAN OR BUS, INDICATE SEATING CAPACITY _____

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DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN VEHICLE **Concrete culvert** **TXDOT** **10'** **\$ 500.00**

LIGHT CONDITION **1** WEATHER **1** SURFACE CONDITION **1** TYPE ROAD SURFACE **1** DESCRIBE ROAD CONDITIONS (INVESTIGATOR'S OPINION) _____

1-DAYLIGHT 2-DAWN 3-DARK-NOT LIGHTED 4-DARK-LIGHTED 5-DUSK 1-CLEAR/CLOUDY 2-RAINING 3-SNOWING 4-FOG 5-BLOWING DUST 6-SMOKE 7-SLEETING 8-HIGH WINDS 9-OTHER 1-DRY 2-WET 3-SLUDGY 4-SLUDGY/ICY 5-OTHER 1-BLACKTOP 2-CONCRETE 3-GRAVEL 4-SHELL 5-CURT 6-OTHER

IN YOUR OPINION, DID THIS ACCIDENT RESULT IN AT LEAST \$1,000.00 DAMAGE TO ANY ONE PERSON'S PROPERTY? ☒ YES ☐ NO

CHARGES FILED

NAME **None** CHARGE _____ CITATION NUMBER _____

NAME _____ CHARGE _____ CITATION NUMBER _____

TIME NOTIFIED OF ACCIDENT **05-25-03 6:51 P** M NOW **Polk County SD** TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE OF ACCIDENT **05-25-03 7:10 P** M

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF INVESTIGATOR **Rep. Shel Lee** DATE REPORT MADE **05-25-03** IS REPORT COMPLETE ☐ YES ☒ NO

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR **[Signature]** NO. **10405** DEPARTMENT **DPS/TRP** DISTANCE **2B4**

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