



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
(1-888-327-4238)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100248

Date Received:
2005 JAN -7 AM
14-DEC-2004

Repository
Reference No.
10103719

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name _____
Address _____
City EAST GRANBY State CT 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 authorization, NHTSA will NOT include your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date 10/26/04

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: 1B7GG26X4X
Make DODGE Model DAKOTA Model Year 1999
Date Purchased 09/03/99 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number MODERN MOTORS, INC.
Original Owner Dealer's City Thomaston State CT Zip Code 06787
Engine: No: Cylinders 6 Fuel Type: Gas
Transmission Type AUTOMATIC Antilock Brakes Cruise Control Powertrain 4 WHEEL DRIVE
Vehicle Component Code 021520 SUSPENSION:FRONT:CONTROL ARM:UPPER BALL JOINT
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 01-APR-2004 Failure Mileage 81000 Failure Speed Both upper and Lower Ball Joints on Both Sides

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make _____ Tire Model (Name or Number) _____ Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) _____
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC03B) 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 Yes No Fire Yes No
Number of Persons Injured 0 Number of Deaths 0 Reported to Police N

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).

WHEELS WOULD SHAKE AND MAKE A CLICKING NOISE WHEN MAKING TURNS AND TRAVELING AT LOW SPEEDS. VEHICLE REPAIRED BY THE DEALER WHEN CONSUMER FOUND OUT THAT THE UPPER BALL JOINTS NEEDED TO BE REPLACED. *AK

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.

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

On 04/13/04 I brought my Dodge Dakota to the Dodge Dealer for a vibration which I needed to determine the cause and get it repaired. Service manager Ralph Mastriano contacted me and I was told that both Upper & Lower Balljoints on Both sides needed to be replaced. I questioned this and was told it was a very Dangerous situation and I could have a very serious accident if I did not have them replaced. He also told me that there was a probable Recall on the Ball Joints for my vehicle. He felt very strongly about this recall and told me to save my receipt and I should hear from Daimler Chrysler Corp. I went ahead and had the repairs done totaling \$1,166.19 was the Ball Joints. The Media's preliminary reports are saying the recall years are 2000-2003. which when I called Daimler Chrysler was told that you the NHTSA were responsible for those years. I know for a fact that the same Ball joints are in the 1999 Dakota as are the 2000 Dakota. In Question the recall years and would appreciate a response to this matter.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

Thank you for this Study.

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

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POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

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**VEHICLE
OWNER'S
QUESTIONNAIRE**

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

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ON**

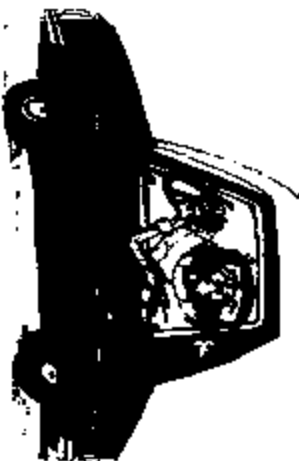
DASH2DOT

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1-888-327-4236

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
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CBS EVENING NEWS

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Dodge Dakota Draws Fed's Eye

Dec. 18, 2003

Dodge Under Fire



Dodge Dakotas (Photo: AP)

As CBS News first reported in October, the government is investigating another Dodge vehicle, the Durango, after receiving an unusually high number of complaints of premature wear on the upper ball joints.

LINK

To visit dodgevehicles.com, a site serving Dodge truck enthusiasts:

[Click here](#)

(CBS) Jon Cahron's Dodge Dakota is out of commission, stuck in a Dodge dealership lot with only three wheels propping it up.

"I went over an incline in the road; truck jerked to the right; I jerked back to the left and stomped on the brakes," says Cahron.

As CBS News Correspondent Mike Brodzinski reports, he got out of the car to find the tire and wheel underneath the front end of the truck.

Cahron just happens to be a metallurgist who specializes in metal failure analysis. He's examined the upper ball joint on his truck, a critical component of the wheel structure, worn out prematurely.

"It was obvious because the ball joint was rusted and corroded and laying there on top of the wheel," says Cahron.

As CBS News first reported in October, the government is investigating another Dodge vehicle, the Durango, after receiving an unusually high number of complaints of premature wear on the upper ball joints. In some cases, the damage was so extreme that the entire wheel assembly falls off the vehicle.

After our story aired, CBS News was contacted not only by hundreds of Durango owners with similar problems, but many Dakota owners as well.

And now CBS News has learned that the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration has received a strikingly similar

number of Dakota complaints: complaints that mirror the same trend when NHTSA launched its Durango investigation. The two vehicles use the same upper ball joints.

The lesson, for other people who might own a Dodge Dakota or a Dodge Durango, officials say, is to have your ball joints checked.

It's advice Kathy Rally already took after seeing CBS' first report. She owns a 2000 Durango and didn't want to take any chances especially with her kids under the age of 6.

"Everything involves my vehicle, and my kids are in it ... the whole time," says Rally.

She had the upper ball joints checked and sure enough, her mechanic discovered a loose wheel: a sign the upper ball joints were worn out and could fail.

"There's no gnawing filing, no way to groove it, so it's metal on metal and the ball and socket wear out and then eventually it pops apart," says mechanic Mickey Hesseck.

Rally sent the part to Washington for analysis as part of the government's investigation.

Cahron is footing the bill for his damages, too, after DaimlerChrysler said it would only fix his truck if he signed this contract to keep quiet and not to sue.

"It's not going to be swept under the rug," says Cahron.

Chrysler says it is conducting its own investigation.

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Video

Mike Brodzinski reports, the Dodge Dakota has come under federal scrutiny for complaints of prematurely faulty ball joints, similar to complaints against the Durango.

RELATED CONTENT

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