



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 100148

Date Received

Repository

2006 JUL 17 04:15
15-AUG-2006

Reference No.
10165522

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City SANTA ROSA State CA Zip Code [REDACTED]

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, please print your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner [REDACTED]

Date 10/2/06

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: 1G2HX54CXM [REDACTED]
Make PONTIAC Model BONNEVILLE Model Year 1991
Date Purchased 01-JUN-91 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number SILVIERA PONTIAC UNKNOWN Engine: No: Cylinders 6 Fuel Type: Gas
Original Owner Dealer's City HEALDSBURG State CA Zip Code [REDACTED]
Transmission Type AUTOMATIC Antilock Brakes Cruise Control Powertrain FRONT WHEEL DRIVE Vehicle Component Code 060000 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 07-JUL-2006 Failure Mileage 38000 Failure Speed 30

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make [REDACTED] Tire Model (Name or Number) [REDACTED] Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) [REDACTED]
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036) Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: [REDACTED]
Tire Component Code [REDACTED] Tire Failure Type [REDACTED]

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: [REDACTED] Date Manufactured: [REDACTED] Model No./Name: [REDACTED]
Seat Type: [REDACTED] Installation System: [REDACTED]
Child Seat Component Code: [REDACTED] Failed Part: [REDACTED]

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 [REDACTED] Number of Deaths [REDACTED] Reported to Police Y

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).

DT*: THE CONTACT STATED WHILE DRIVING 30 MPH ON THE HIGHWAY, THE ROD BEARING FRACTURED ALONG THE ENGINE WITHOUT WARNING WHICH LEAKED OIL ONTO THE HOT CATALYTIC CONVERTER CAUSING A FIRE TO ERUPT WITHIN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT AND SPREAD THROUGH THE AIR CONDITIONING BLOWER MOTOR AND INTO THE CAB OF THE VEHICLE. THE DRIVER EXITED THE VEHICLE WITHOUT INJURIES. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS CONTACTED AND EXTINGUISHED THE FIRE. THE VEHICLE WAS TOTALED DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE FIRE DAMAGE. THE POLICE WERE ON THE SCENE AND A REPORT WAS TAKEN. THE DEALER WAS ALERTED.

(see reverse side for add'l notes)

PHOTOS ENCLOSED

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 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)

Connecting rod bearing on rear bank of 3800 V-6 engine suddenly failed with normal oil pressure (factory in-dash gauge), causing the rod to be thrown thru the rear (nearest to passenger compartment) of the engine.

Secondary to the rupture of the engine block from the force of the thrown piston connecting rod (fractured in three parts recovered from the roadway)

oil sprayed/leaked on the hot exhaust manifold/catalytic convertor, ignited and flames spread to flammable AC/heater blower motor mtg. flange foam plastic gasket, allowing fire to burn thru firewall, and travel inside the AC air duct assembly, entirely burning the plastic blower motor fan wheel, underside of dash electrical wiring harness. Ignition

and fire of the AC blower motor gasket set off the chain of events allowing penetration of smoke and fire to enter the passenger compartment. The Exhaust pipe (rear of engine) is too close to flammable AC blower motor assembly. There should be a heat shield between the two. Blower motor Flange Gasket should have been made of Non-flammable material - a design defect affecting many GM cars.

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

RECOMMEND RECALL FOR RETROFIT OF HEATSHIELD & INSTALLATION of NON-FLAMMABLE A/C BLOWER MOTOR MOUNTING GASKET (flange to housing gasket)

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

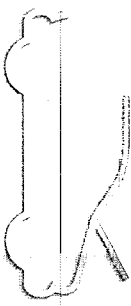


POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-210
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590



Think your vehicle has a safety defect?



**If so:
Use the enclosed form to file a report.**

**or visit:
www.safercar.gov**

**or call:
Vehicle Safety Hotline
888-327-4236**



Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOC)
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

AC BLOWER
ASSEMBLY

FLAMMABLE
FOAM PLASTIC
SEALING
GASKET

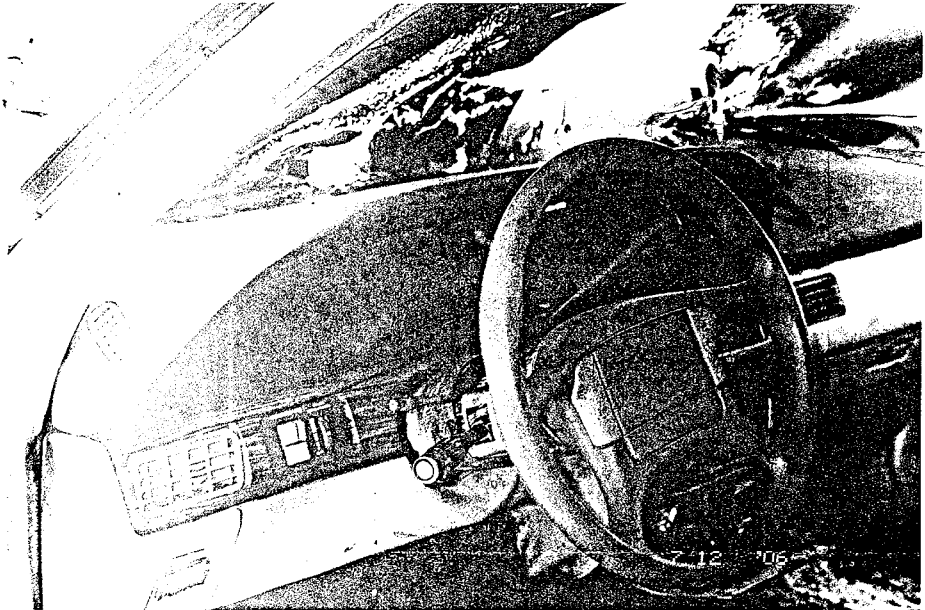
(blower fan
wheel compl-
etely burned
off in pass-
enger comp-
artment side

SOURCE OF
FIRE-nearby
hot exhaust
pipe, spread
to above A/C
blower motor
Flames/smoke
entered thru
A/C duct
system

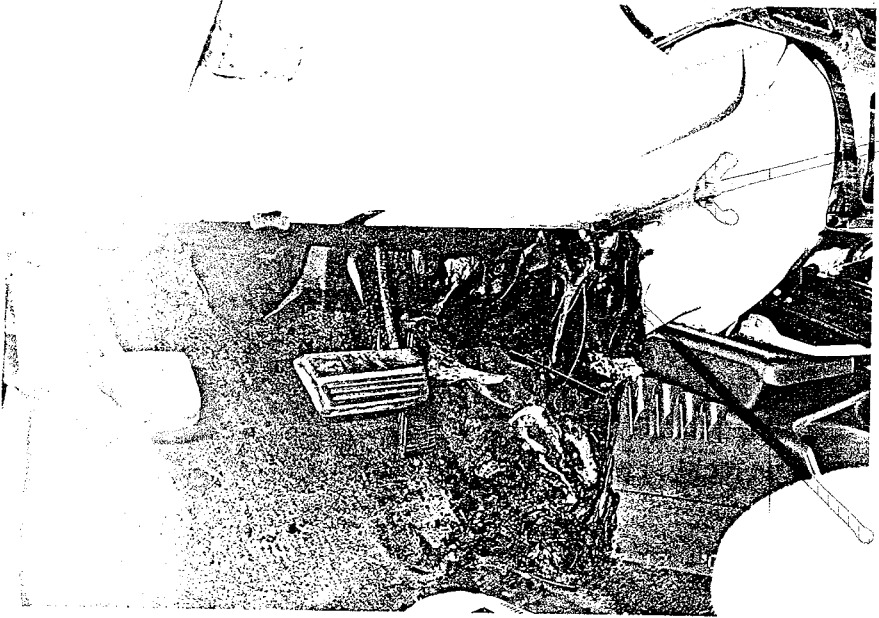
OVERALL
ENGINE COM-
PARTMENT
LAY OUT

A/C BLOWER
MOTOR &
FLANGE ASSY.
w/burned
pastic gasket
MTG flange-to
housing blwr.
duct to
interior car

FUEL INJECTION
3800



FIRE DAMAGE FROM
FLAMES TRAVELING
THRU 'DEFROSTER'
DUCT OUTLET



SOOT SHOWING
PATH OF FIRE &
FLAMES INTO
PASSENGER COMPART-
MENT

FIRE DAMAGE FROM
FLAMES UNDERSIDE
OF DASH FROM A/C
BLOWER MOTOR HOUS-
ING & FLAMMABLE
BLOWER MOTOR/FAN
MTG. FLANGE GASKET

PATH OF FLAMES-BLOWN
FAN WHEEL COMPLETELY
BURNED OFF & CON-
SUMED BY FIRE (was
ignited by burning
engine compartment
side A/C BLWR MTR
flange Mtg. Gasket)