



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

July 30, 2009

[REDACTED]  
Washington, DC [REDACTED]

NVS-216 et  
Ref. No. 10269762

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 25, 2009, concerning your model year (MY) 2005 Toyota Prius vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on June 4, 2009.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a safety defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. In your letter you indicate that your MY 2005 Toyota Prius vehicle was destroyed in a fire while parked at your residence.

We sympathize with you regarding the loss of your vehicle. However, based on the work we conducted and the close review of our field data, we cannot identify the source of the fire and see no indications of fire or fire precursor (electrical or rear wheel brakes / wheel bearings) trends in MY 2005 Toyota Prius vehicles.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq> or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Reid, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement