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Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 2127-0008

INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire To Report Vehicle Safety Defects

1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)

INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

Date Received

DEC 12 2011

02-NOV-2011

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10434009

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

CONNELLSVILLE

State

PA

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

SAME

The information you provide will be used to identify potential safety-related defects. We may share your information with the applicable vehicle manufacturer during an investigation or recall in accordance with the routine uses described in the agency's Privacy Act notice. See 49 FR 53971 (Sep. 3, 2004).

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

4S6CM58W5X4

Make

HONDA

Model

PASSPORT

Model Year

1999

Date Purchased

30 July 2010

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

U.S. Auto Mart Inc. 555 E. 2nd St. Adamsburg

Original Owner

☐

Dealer's City

Adamsburg

State

PA

Zip Code

15611

Engine:

No: Cylinders

6

Fuel Type:

Gas

Transmission Type

☒ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

4 wheel Drive

Multiple Failure: Yes

Gas 920 gpm never worked. ABS at one since got car - frame

Incident Date(s)

30-JUL-2010 To Present

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Vehicle Component Code: 162000 STRUCTURE: BODY

Failure Mileage

66000

Failure Speed

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: DOTM9ABC036)

☐ 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

Number of Deaths

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).

TL* THE CONTACT OWNS A 1999 HONDA PASSPORT 4WD. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THE FRAME AND ITS BRACKETS WERE RUSTED. THE DEALER AND MANUFACTURER WERE NOT CONTACTED AND THE VEHICLE WAS NOT REPAIRED. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 66,000 AND THE CURRENT MILEAGE WAS 81,000.

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)

My wifes 99 Passport has excessive rust on frame and brackets that go to frame parts. Crossmember rusted bad in rear of car on drivers side rear. Frame rusted through on both sides behind drivers side wheel going back to crossmember. Rear end stabilizer bar rusted clean off on passenger side rear (bracket that is part of frame rusted clean off letting stab bar hang free. Gas guage has never worked right and ABS light on dash has never gone out since she bought the vehicle on July 30, 2010. I am sending you a disc on the frame damage and copies of WTAE channel 4 ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY reports on their investigations on the vehicles in question for frame damage from other owners of 98 to 2002 Passports and Rodeos manufactured by Izumi Corp for Honda in these years. Any questions please call me at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

99 Passport

Examination of frame especially
in rear of vehicle. Saw rust
around frame bracket on
rear end. rust clean through
crossmember that connects both
sides of frame on rear. rusted
clean out on drivers side
Frame behind drivers side
rear tire rusted clean
through on both sides.

Called Honda toll free and
NHTSA toll free and reported,

Honda case #

case NO 2011-11-020-1594

Ref recall # 10V436000

NHTSA Defect # 10434009

Team 4: Vehicles Out Of Control After Rear Ends Break Loose

Isuzu, Honda Respond To Team 4's Investigation

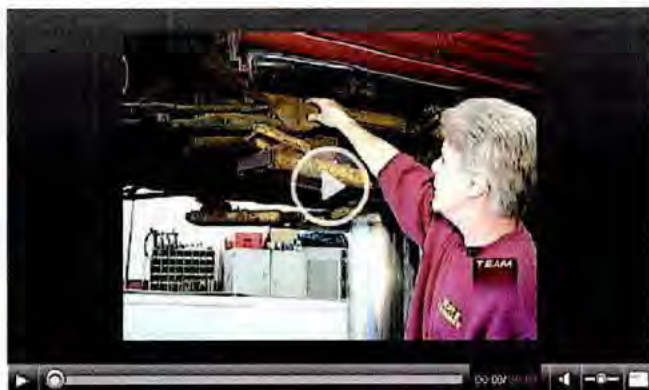
POSTED: 4:29 pm EDT July 12, 2010
UPDATED: 8:38 pm EDT July 12, 2010

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PITTSBURGH — It's a frightening scenario -- you're driving your car and, suddenly, the rear end breaks loose from the rest of the frame, sending your vehicle out of control.

A Team 4 investigation finds it has happened to motorists all across the country -- a problem so potentially severe, federal investigators are now involved.

The following is a transcript of Team 4 investigator Jim Parsons' report that first aired July 12, 2010, on WTAE Channel 4 Action News at 5 p.m.

We learned about this possible safety defect from a Monroeville woman who discovered it on her SUV before her frame broke apart. Digging deeper, we found others around the nation who have not been so lucky.

Michelle Bacco, of Monroeville, is proud of her 2001 Isuzu Rodeo. It still looks the same today as it did the day she brought it home brand new, and it's because she takes such good care of her SUV that Michelle recently learned some shocking news.

Michelle Bacco: "I just took it in for maintenance and found out it was a total loss."

Michelle's Rodeo may look great from above, but underneath, it has stage 4 cancer.

Marlon Fedele, Fedele Auto Service: "This here is the main mount right here, which is welded to the frame."

Michelle's mechanic says he's never seen anything like the rot that's infected her car's frame -- specifically, the linkage that connects it to the rear axle.

Marlon Fedele: "Where it attaches, as you can see, everything is just falling apart in your hands, so once the frame is rotted out, the mount comes off, there's going to be a horrible accident."

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Michelle says she called Isuzu to see if any other Rodeo owners had the same problem.

Michelle Bacco: "They said they didn't have any other complaints and they were not aware of any problem."

But it turns out there have been hundreds of complaints. In fact, last December, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened a formal investigation to determine if there's a safety defect.

The federal probe includes all Isuzu Rodeos and Honda Passports built between 1998 and 2002. The Rodeo and the Passport are the same vehicle with different names.

Bill Visnic, Edmunds.com: "Completely designed, engineered and manufactured by Isuzu. The only thing Honda did, effectively, was market the car."

The NHTSA's investigation has already been boosted past the initial stage of preliminary inquiry to the more serious final stage of engineering analysis. The next step could be a recall for owners from Pittsburgh to Louisville.

Marinna Leavitt: "We had no idea that our frame was rusted."

Marina Leavitt, of Kentucky, learned the hard way last year about the safety issue on her Honda Passport.

Marina Leavitt: "As we were driving, all of a sudden, it kind of went this way. Just this great big 'boom,' and I just stopped, put the brakes on and put it in park. It was just like something fell off my car and I had no idea."

And Team 4 heard similar stories from two Rodeo owners in Massachusetts.

Richard Shearley: "While I was driving it, actually just about a half of a mile from our house, the car suddenly veered to one side, went up on two wheels and almost flipped over."

Heather Briggs: "I was driving, and it completely fell off, and my car started swaying out of control."

Heather Briggs says she barely avoided a crash -- and no wonder. Take a look at this.

Heather Briggs: "But this is the frame. It's just gone. There is nothing left. Oh here we go (breaks off piece of rust) -- frame to my car."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration declined to comment on its investigation.

Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey says because of NHTSA's slow response to the recent troubles with Toyotas, he has concerns about the agency quickly dealing with the problems Team 4 has discovered.

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa.: "That's one of the questions I want answered. Do they have the resources and the personnel to do their job, and are they providing the kind of tough oversight that they need? And I think that's still an open question."

Taking Action for You: Auto safety experts we spoke with say owners of Passports and Rodeos should not wait for answers from Washington, because the examples Team 4 has already uncovered are serious.

Rebecca Lindland, auto expert, IHS Global Insight: "They are very serious, and they need to have the frame examined, inspected, looked at, and to establish whether the vehicle is safe to drive."

Marlon Fedele: "It is a very big safety issue. Like I said, that's the only thing holding that rear end in place is those lower control arms. Once they go, you're in trouble. Imagine going down the road at 70 mph, and that comes out from underneath the vehicle? Wow. I wouldn't want to be driving."

In response to our questions, Isuzu Motors America issued this statement: "Isuzu takes inquiries from National Highway Safety Administration as well



as our relationship with our customers extremely seriously. We are fully cooperating with NHTSA and, of course, will continue to do so."

Honda's statement said: "Honda is aware of a NHTSA engineering analysis involving 1998-2002 Honda Passport models. Honda will, of course, cooperate fully as NHTSA completes its analysis."

More Links:

- [Search for complaints to NHTSA about a specific make/model vehicle](#)
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CONNELLVILLE, PA

PAGE 1

HOME: [REDACTED] CONT: [REDACTED]

BUS: [REDACTED] CELL: [REDACTED]

SERVICE ADVISOR: 100 GREG KUZYCK

COLOR	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL	VIN	LICENSE	MILEAGE IN / OUT	TAG	
GREEN/GREY	99	HONDA PASSPORT	4S6CM58W5X4		81962/81962		
DEL. DATE	PROD. DATE	WARR. EXP.	PROMISED	PO NO.	RATE	PAYMENT	INV. DATE
11NOV99 IS							
11NOV99 DD			17:00 09NOV11		82.00	CASH	09NOV11
R.O. OPENED		READY		OPTIONS: ENG:3.2_LITER_DOHC_GAS			
09NOV11		09NOV11					

LINE	OPCODE	TECH	TYPE	HOURS	LIST	NET	TOTAL
------	--------	------	------	-------	------	-----	-------

A CUST STATES INSPECT REAR FRAME AND UNDERCARRIAGE FOR RUST AND ADVISE

G1 INSPECTED REAR UNDERCARRIAGE AND REAR FRAM FOR

RUST DAMAGE

67053 CP 0.00

0.00 0.00

PARTS:	0.00	LABOR:	0.00	OTHER:	0.00	TOTAL LINE A:	0.00
--------	------	--------	------	--------	------	---------------	------

INSPECTED REAR UNDERCARRIAGE OF CAR AND REAR FRAME FOR RUST DAMAGE.

FOUND RUST ON UNDERCARRIAGE OF VEH. FOUND REAR CROSSMEMBER AND REAR

PANHARD ROD FRAME MOUNT ON PASSENGER REAR SIDE RUSTED THREW. INSPECTED

TRAILING LINK FRONT BRACKETS AND SERVICE BULLETIN 10-079 HAS BEEN

PERFORMED WITH NO VISABLE CORRISION.



ON BEHALF OF SERVICING DEALER, I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREON IS ACCURATE UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN. SERVICES DESCRIBED ABOVE WERE PERFORMED AND COMPLETED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THERE WAS NO INDICATION FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THE VEHICLE OR OTHERWISE, THAT ANY PART REPAIRED OR REPLACED UNDER THIS CLAIM HAD BEEN CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH ANY ACCIDENT, NEGLIGENCE OR MISUSE. RECORDS SUPPORTING THIS CLAIM ARE AVAILABLE FOR (1) YEAR FROM THE DATE OF PAYMENT NOTIFICATION AT THE SERVICING DEALER FOR INSPECTION BY MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE.

STATEMENT OF DISCLAIMER

The factory warranty constitutes all of the warranties with respect to the sale of this item/items. The Seller hereby expressly disclaims all warranties either express or implied, including any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Seller neither assumes nor authorizes any other person to assume for it any liability in connection with the sale of this item/items.

DESCRIPTION

TOTALS

LABOR AMOUNT	0.00
PARTS AMOUNT	0.00
GAS, OIL, LUBE	0.00
SUBLET AMOUNT	0.00
MISC. CHARGES	0.00
TOTAL CHARGES	0.00
LESS INSURANCE	0.00
SALES TAX	0.00

(SIGNED) DEALER, GENERAL MANAGER OR AUTHORIZED PERSON (DATE)

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE

PLEASE PAY
THIS AMOUNT

0.00

Make : HONDA

Model : PASSPORT

Year : 1999

Manufacturer : HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)

Crash : No

Fire : No

Number of Injuries: 0

ODI ID Number : 10373213

Number of Deaths: 0

Date of Failure: August 2, 2010

VIN : 4S6CM58W6X4...

Component: SUSPENSION:REAR

Summary:

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 1999 HONDA PASSPORT. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THE UNDERCARRIAGE HAD BECOME CORRODED AND RUSTED WHICH CAUSED A LOT OF PROBLEM. HOWEVER, THE CONTACT WAS INFORMED THAT THE VEHICLE WAS NOT INCLUDED IN RECALL 10V436000 (SUSPENSION: REAR) AS SHE WAS LIVING IN FLORIDA. THE CONTACT CALLED THE DEALER WHO STATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT REPAIR THE VEHICLE UNDER RECALL. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS APPROXIMATELY 131,000.

Make : HONDA

Model : PASSPORT

Year : 1999

Manufacturer : HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)

Crash : No

Fire : No

Number of Injuries: 0

ODI ID Number : 10368433

Number of Deaths: 0

Date of Failure: November 25, 2010

VIN : 4S6CM58WXX4...

Component: SUSPENSION:REAR

Summary:

I HAVE HAD THE SAME PROBLEM AS ALL THE OTHER HONDA PASSPORT/RODEO OWNERS WITH MY REAR SUSPENSION LINKAGE. I AM A COLLEGE STUDENT AND EXTREMELY UPSET FOR I PUT ALL MY MONEY INTO THIS VEHICLE TO HAVE A RELIABLE TRUCK AT SCHOOL. NOW I AM UP A CREEK, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING 2 JOBS DUE TO THE FACT I HAVE NO TRUCK. MY LINKAGE RUSTED OFF AT THE BRACKET WITH THE REST OF THE ROTTING FRAME ON THE FRONT SIDE (CLOSEST TO THE ENGINE) OF THE AXLE CHASSIS CONNECTING BAR. I DIDN'T GET INTO AN ACCIDENT DUE TO THE FACT I DIAGNOSED THERE WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM BEFORE ANYTHING BAD HAPPENED. BUT NO IT IS UNSAFE TO DRIVE AND I HAVE NO TRANSPORTATION. THIS IS MY 1999 HONDA PASSPORT. *TR

Make : HONDA

Model : PASSPORT

Year : 1999

Manufacturer : HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)

Crash : No

Fire : No

Number of Injuries: 0

ODI ID Number : 10362960

Number of Deaths: 0

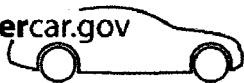
Date of Failure: October 12, 2010

VIN : 4S6CM58W6X4...

Component: SUSPENSION:REAR

Summary:

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 1999 HONDA PASSPORT. THE CONTACT STATED THAT WHILE DRIVING 60 MPH, THE PASSENGER READ SIDE SUSPENSION BROKE. THE CONTACT PULLED AND THE VEHICLE TOWED TO AN AUTHORIZED DEALER. THE DEALER REFUSED TO TOUCH THE VEHICLE AND STATED THAT IT COULD NOT BE REPAIRED. THE CONTACT REFERENCED RECALL 10V436000 (SUSPENSION: REAR) BUT THE DEALER WAS UNSURE WHEN SHE WOULD RECEIVE A RECALL NOTICE. THE VEHICLE HAD NOT BEEN



Complaints - Search Results

2 Record(s) Displayed.

Report Date : December 1, 2011 at 09:40 PM

Search Type : **VEHICLE**Year : **1999**Make : **HONDA**Model : **PASSPORT****Make :** HONDA**Model :** PASSPORT**Year :** 1999**Manufacturer :** HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)**Crash :** No**Fire :** No**Number of Injuries:** 0**ODI ID Number :** 768418**Number of Deaths:** 0**Date of Failure:** April 1, 2001**VIN :** 4S6CM58W4X4...**Component:** FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE:STORAGE:TANK ASSEMBLY**Summary:**

FUEL SYSTEM PROBLEM: FUEL GAUGE FREQUENTLY HAS BEGUN TO DROP TO A READING OF ZERO WHEN THE CAR IS NOT MOVING BUT RUNNING. THE RESERVE LIGHT WILL BLINK AND THE FUEL GAUGE WILL NOT SHOW ANY FUEL READING UNTIL THE CAR BEGINS MOVING AGAIN. IT CAN TAKE SEVERAL MINUTES BEFORE A CORRECT READING IS SHOWN. INTAKE MANIFOLD SYSTEM FAILURE: DATE AND MILEAGE IS APPROXIMATED, WILL LOCATE RECORDS WITH EXACT DATE AND MILEAGE. BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT SIDE INTAKE MANIFOLD GASKETS WERE REPORTED AS "CRACKED" BY THE DEALER AND REPLACED AT A CHARGE OF \$400 (NOT UNDER WARRANTY). ENGINE IDLED ROUGHLY AND STALLED PRIOR TO REPAIR. TSB FROM HONDA IS AVAILABLE.

Make : HONDA**Model :** PASSPORT**Year :** 1999**Manufacturer :** HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)**Crash :** No**Fire :** No**Number of Injuries:** 0**ODI ID Number :** 768062**Number of Deaths:** 0**Date of Failure:** September 3, 2002**VIN :** 4S6CK58W7X4...**Component:** FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE:STORAGE:TANK ASSEMBLY**Summary:**

THIS IS THE THIRD HONDA I HAVE OWNED, BUT THE ONLY ONE WITH PROBLEMS. THE FIRST TWO HAD OVER 300,000 MILES COMBINED...NO PROBLEMS. THIS REALLY ISN'T EVEN A HONDA, IT IS AN ISUZU. WHEN I PURCHASED THE CAR, I WAS TOLD THAT ALL PARTS INSIDE AND OUT WERE MADE BY HONDA AND THAT ISUZU SUPPLIED ONLY THE SEATBELTS AND THE ACTUAL CAR FRAME. I HAVE HAD THE A/C BLOWER REPLACED TWO TIMES, THE FIRST TIME WAS UNDER WARRANTY. AFTER THE FIRST REPLACEMENT, THE CD PLAYER STOPPED WORKING AND THEN THE CAR STARTED EXPERIENCING ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS. WHEN I TURNED ON THE BLINKER, THE A/C WENT OUT ALONG WITH THE AUTO TRANSM. SPENT OVER \$150 PLUS COST OF RENTAL CAR AND HONDA SAID THE PROBL WAS WITH THE TRAILER HITCH. I DID NOT PAY FOR REPAIR...THEY WANTED OVER \$600...HOWEVER, WHEN THE CAR WAS GIVEN BACK, MYSTERIOUSLY THE CD PLAYER BEGAIN WORKING AND SO DID THE A/C...CHECKED AND THEY REPLACED THE BLOWER (ALTHOUGH THEY SAID THEY DIDNT DO ANYTHING) AS SOON AS I PICKED UP THE CAR...NO MORE PROBLEMS DURING THAT TIME. A YEAR LATER (NO LONGER UNDER WARRANTY) THE A/C BLOWER WORKS INTERMITTENTLY, THE TRANSMISSION TODAY JUST STARTED TO MANUALLY SHIFT ITSELF FROM 2 TO 3RD GEAR AND MAKES A HARD CLUNKING SOUND. A FEW MONTHS AGO, IT WAS SHIFTING ITSELF FROM DRIVE TO NEUTRAL OR LOW AND THEN BACK TO DRIVE. ALSO, THE FUEL SENDING UNIT IS INOPERABLE...THE TANK REGISTERS EMPTY AND THE LIGHT FLASHES CONSTANTLY. HEARD THIS IS A KNOWN PROBLEM FOR ISUZU RODEOS AND PASSPORTS. I EVEN WORK WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS A 99 RODEO AND HAS THE SAME PROBLEMS, BUT HIS FUEL SENDING UNIT WENT OUT WHILE HE WAS UNDER WARRANTY. THE HONDA DEALER DOWN HERE WANTS OVER \$600 FOR REPAIR. I FEEL MISLEAD. I PURCHASED HONDA DUE TO SUCCESS ON MY OTHER TWO HONDAS. I COULD HAVE SAVED OVER \$10,000 AND PURCHASED AN ISUZU RODEO, BUT I THOUGHT BY PURCHASING A HONDA, I WAS GETTING A RELIABLE SUV. I WILL NEVER PURCHASE ANOTHER HONDA/ISUZU AGAIN...I HAVE GOTTEN NO SUPPORT FROM THE HONDA DEALERS. TOO MANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS MODEL!



→ FRAME RUST AROUND THE SPOT WHERE REAR CONTROL ARM IS ATTACHED TO FRAME. IT IS COMPLETELY RUSTED THRU. THE PART IS STILL ATTACHED TO THE FRAME, BUT THE FRAME ITSELF HAS RUSTED THROUGH ON EITHER SIDE AND HAS SEPARATED FROM THE VEHICLE. I HEARD SOME CLICKING NOISES AND STOPPED VEHICLE TO CHECK IT, AND FOUND THE PART TOTALLY SEPARATED FROM THE VEHICLE FRAME, AND PROCEEDED TO CALL A TOW TRUCK. *TR

Make : HONDA

Model : PASSPORT

Year : 1999

Manufacturer : HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)

Crash : No

Fire : No

Number of Injuries: 0

ODI ID Number : 744633

Number of Deaths: 0

Date of Failure: April 15, 2001

VIN : 4S6CK58W6X4...

Component: SUSPENSION:REAR

Summary:

RECALL 00V058000 SUPPOSEDLY COMPLETED ON MY CAR, BUT PART FELL APART ANYWAY. *AK

Team 4 UPDATE: Vehicles Breaking Loose, Falling Apart

Isuzu, Honda SUVs Part Of Investigation

POSTED: 5:46 pm EDT July 21, 2010
UPDATED: 7:37 pm EDT July 21, 2010

PITTSBURGH - Two weeks ago, Team 4's Jim Parsons alerted Channel 4 Action News

viewers of a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigation into complaints about Honda Passports and Isuzu Rodeos falling apart.

Thanks to Parsons' report, the investigation now has two more cases to look into.

From Louisville to Pittsburgh to Cape Cod, Parsons' Team 4 investigation found numerous examples of Isuzu Rodeos and Honda Passports falling apart, including two cases in Butler County.

"And all of a sudden, this thing broke -- threw me clear across Route 8 three lanes, clear across and back across," said Isuzu Rodeo owner Joe Barkley.

Barkley told Parsons that his 1998 Rodeo came apart when the trailing arm connecting the rear axle to the rest of the frame broke due to corrosion.

"Someone is going to get hurt seriously," said Barkley.

Parsons found another Rodeo with the same problem at a Butler welding shop.

"Heard a snap and just totally lost control. The vehicle started swaying around," said owner Bob Pint.

Pint's vehicle had the exact same condition as other cases documented by Team 4 that involved the trailing arm rusting through and disconnecting from the frame.

Pint said he followed Team 4's online directions for filing a report with federal transportation investigators.

Barkley's computer had a virus, so Parsons brought a laptop for him to use file his complaint.

Barkley told Parsons that he didn't file one when he found out about the problem with his vehicle because he "didn't know where to turn."

Barkley completed his online report in five minutes and the case has since become part of a federal investigation.

Bill Visnic, of Edmunds.com, told Parsons that owners of the SUVs experiencing problems should exercise extra caution.

"Make sure you're taking care of what you need to take care of, of the crucial parts, like the chassis and the frame underneath, and just keep a close watch on it," said Visnic.

Honda and Isuzu have both said that they are cooperating with federal investigators.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration is investigating possible safety defects with Isuzu Rodeos & Honda Passports manufactured between 1998 and 2002.

Read more: <http://www.wtae.com/news/24343906/detail.html#ixzz1fLJScn27>

Connellsville, PA



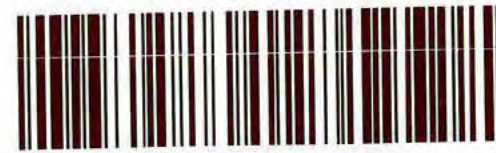
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U S Dept. of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation NVS-210
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