

Easton, PA
February 19, 2013

U.S. Department of Transportation NHTSA
Office of Defects Investigation (NVS-210)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

FEB 25 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Reference # - 512678 - 1999 ACURA 3.2TL - (VIN) ID# 19UUA5640XA - NHTSA ID#10497696

On 2/2/2013 – Returned from grocery shopping and as usual, drove in my garage – stopped in front of a table (stored in garage for the winter). **With my foot on the brake pedal, I shifted into reverse (to ease back a little)** when I heard a **loud shrill noise as my car suddenly accelerated** – knocking over the table and splintered the plexiglass. **My car continued to accelerate in reverse** - damaged the lawn mower, compressor, screens, two storage tables, etc. **left scrape marks on the garage cement floor as well as skid marks on the upper macadam driveway from my continuous braking.**

My 1999 Acura TL spun around and was headed downward toward the 350 FT. steep driveway. Continuing to brake & holding tight to the steering wheel, attempting to direct the auto to the left away from the steep driveway when **SUDDENLY WITHOUT CHANGING GEARS**, my auto proceeded to go forward and halted after plowing into the right door entrance and concrete base of the garage, **which caused both air bags to deploy.**

I missed striking an electrical pole guide wire by inches, as well as, fortunate not to go over the embankment and striking one of the trees and being killed or killing someone else. **If I would not have survived, no one would have known it to be a faulty Acura issue.**

I suffered slight injury to my left hand from the deployed airbag, pain in right arm, neck, shoulder from holding so tight to the steering wheel, as well as, right leg, hip and knee pain from **(TO THE FLOOR CONTINUOUS BRAKING AND THE IMPACT INTO THE GARAGE)**. I shook continuously for over two hours and couldn't sleep.

2/5/13 – Called 1-800-382-2238 Acura Client Relation and spoke with Acura's Rep. Steve and explained my 2/2/13 - Acceleration incident. He asked what I expected from Acura. I informed him, since this accident was beyond my control and there were other Acura 3.2TL similar (Car Accelerates on its Own) accidents & No Recalls or notifications were made, Acura should be responsible for damages done. Steve requested & confirmed my VIN #. He was also given My Home and Cell Phone number. State Farm Auto Ins. Agent's Name, Phone & Fax #, and Scott's Auto Service & Phone # where my car was taken. <<<<<(I now believe this was an error on my part)>>>>>

Steve then asked me to hold, to speak with the Acura Case Manager. He returned and informed me the Case Manager was unavailable but he will definitely contact me no later than tomorrow – Wednesday, 2/6/13 and gave me a Case Number. ----> MY ACURA CASE # IS B012012-02-0500679

2/6/2013 - CALL WAS NOT RETURNED AS INFORMED

2/7/13 – I Called 1-800-382-2238 Acura Client Relations again and requested to speak with John, the Case Manager and was informed: he has been very busy in meetings and will get back to me as soon as he can.

2/18/13 – 9:01 PM & 9:02 PM – 2 - Calls were registered on my cell phone:

1st Message: 9:01 PM: This is John from Acura Client Services and this message is for [REDACTED] calling regarding your 1999 3.2TL and if you can kindly give me a call back to discuss your case further. My number is 800-382-2238 and my Ext. is 115185. Thank you”

2nd Message: 9:02 PM: “This is John from Acura Client Services and this message is for [REDACTED] calling regarding your 1999 3.2TL and your concern with the acceleration.” If you can kindly give me a call at 800-382—2238; my Ext. is 115185. Thank you and have a great day.”

>>>> (I Returned his call 2/18/13 - 9:10 PM -- Message - Hours are from 6AM-6PM Pacific Time) <<<<

>>>>WHY WOULD JOHN CALL ME AT CLOSING TIME ON THE 18TH????<<<<

2/19/13 – I Called Acura again - JOHN QUESTIONED WHERE IS THE CAR NOW & I explained it was totaled. He informed me the car is now the property of my insurance company and Acura can't do anything without a car. If your insurance Company wants to do something they can.

I QUESTIONED JOHN ABOUT NOT CALLING ME SOONER. HE SAID HE CALLED ME ON THE 6TH, 7TH, 11TH, AND 18TH AND THERE IS NO TRUTH IN THIS. I HAVE VOICE MAIL AND CALLER I.D. ON MY PHONE AND THEIR NUMBER HAS NEVER BEEN REGISTERED ON MY HOME PHONE. WHAT IS A LIFE TO AN AUTO COMPANY??? THEY ARE PLAYING GAMES WHILE OTHERS MAY LOSE THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF ACURA'S NEGLIGENCE.

IT APPEARS EVERYONE HAS WORKED THIS INCIDENT TO THEIR OWN BENEFIT.

2/19/13 – Called my State Farm Insurance Agent Jim Habick explained the situation. I have everything well documented but well behind the game playing. I need help and would appreciate any assistance I can get.

I DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM THIS – I FEEL IT IS ACURA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REIMBURSE STATE FARM FOR THE DAMAGES DONE AND CLEAR MY DRIVING RECORD.

(NOT PLAY GAMES WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES EXPECTING OTHERS TO BEAR THEIR BURDEN.)

I had an excellent driving record and hopefully this will not cause an increase in my insurance rate.

This incident has not only caused me trauma, but triggered unexpected expenses of purchasing a new car, as well as being without a garage until the \$3,650 contractor's estimated damages for the garage alone are approved for repair and the work is completed.

Enclosed you will find:

- (18) photos taken on 2/2/2013 – (you may not be interested in all photos)
- (2) Pages Information found on Acura issue
- (6) Pages Maintenance Work done on my Acura since 11/20/1999, as proof of a well maintained auto.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or E-mail me at [REDACTED]
Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

Note the Skid Marks in Macadam from continuous braking. This is the top of our 350' Ft. Driveway.



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM



Sat. 2/2/13 – Approximately 1:40 pm

**Removing items from totaled '99
Acura TL before being towed to
Scott's Auto Service**



SAT. 2/2/13 - 1:40 PM



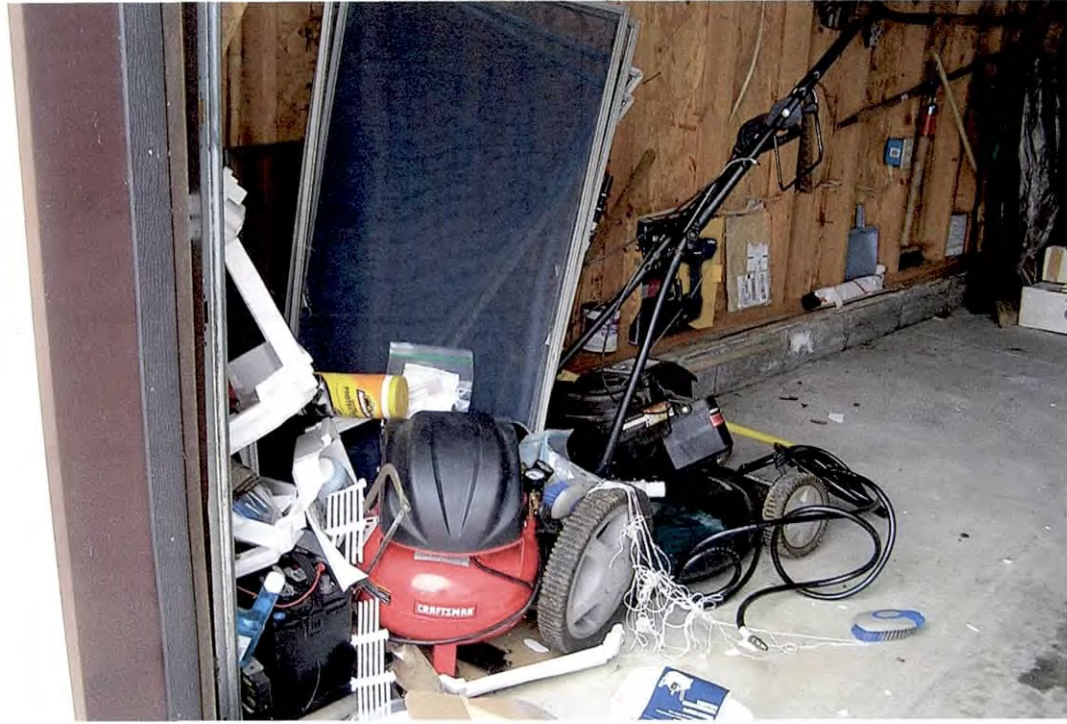
SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

**Damages left behind from the
automatic and sudden uncontrollable
Reverse gear acceleration.**



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

DAMAGES



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

DAMAGES



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

**ANOTHER PHOTO OF DAMAGES LEFT
BEHIND FROM THE AUTOMATIC AND
SUDDEN UNCONTROLLABLE
REVERSE GEAR ACCELERATION.**



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

**2- Car attached garage & Stone wall
that fortunately wasn't struck with
the automatic and sudden
uncontrollable Reverse gear
acceleration.**



SAT. 2/2/13 – 1:40 PM

FORKS TWP. POLICE CAR



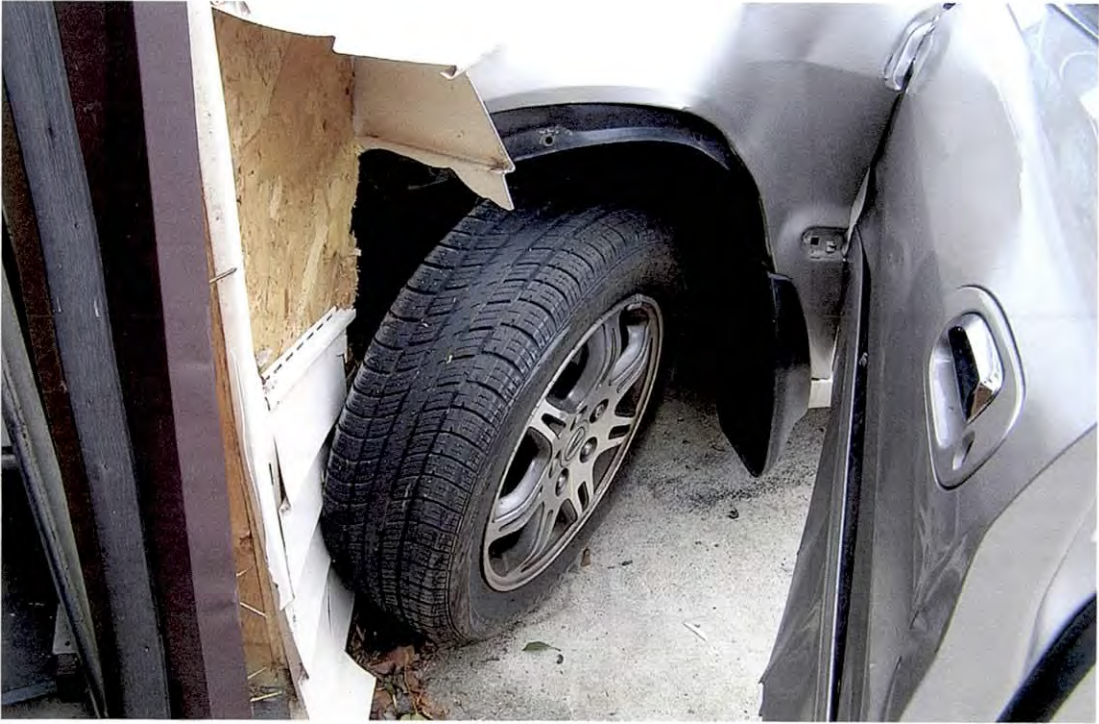
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SAT. 2/2/13 - 1:40 PM



SAT. 2/2/13 - 1:40 PM

TOTALED
1999 ACURA TL
VIN #19UUA5640XA [REDACTED]



Here is the information found on the Acura issue:



#21 - Electrical System problem of the 1999 Acura TL

The vehicle was a 1999 Acura 3. 2tl. There was crash involved with this Acura 3. 2tl. The vehicle's vehicle identification number (VIN) was 19UUA5654X_. While stopped, with foot on the brake pedal, I was waiting for my garage door to open. The garage door started to open and it was about half way up when my car suddenly accelerated. Thinking I would hit the garage door and have my head torn off I ducked towards the passenger seat as best I could. The car did hit the garage door a glancing blow off the windshield and the roof. The car continued to accelerate until it hit the rear wall of the garage. The air bags deployed and the car halted. Severe damage to the car, most likely to be totaled. Severe damage to my home. The car is a 1999 Acura 3. 2tl. I suffered injury to my left wrist and left knee. This problem occurred on 10/06/04.

As well as these articles on other Acura with Electrical System problems.

Car Accelerates On Its Own Problems of Acura TL

Acura TL owners have reported 10 problems linked to *car accelerates on its own* (under the vehicle speed control category).

#1 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2003 Acura TL

VIN of the vehicle was 19UUA56743_. Consumer owns a 2003 Acura TL. The contact stated that while attempting to brake, the vehicle erroneously accelerated. The contact shut off and restarted the vehicle as it began to function properly. The vehicle was taken to a private mechanic where the failure could not be replicated. The vehicle was not repaired. The manufacturer was not contacted about the issue. The failure and current mileages were 103,000. This issue happened on Nov. 9, 2012.

See [all problems of the 2003 Acura TL](#).

#2 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2010 Acura TL

The reporting person owns a 2010 Acura TL. While driving in reverse at approximately 1 mph, the contact applied the brake pedal and the vehicle continued to accelerate. The vehicle came to a complete stop after the contact shifted into neutral with the brake pedal engaged. The contact was able to resume driving. The authorized dealer was notified and an appointment was scheduled for the vehicle to be diagnosed for unintended acceleration. The manufacturer was not made aware of the failure. The approximate failure mileage was 36,500. Updated 05/21/12. This issue happened on Sat., Apr. 21, 2012.

See [all problems of the 2010 Acura TL](#).

#3 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2007 Acura TL

The car was a 2007 Acura TL. Vehicle identification number (VIN): 19UUA662X7_. On Friday, September 9, 2011 I experienced sudden acceleration. I was parking in a parking spot up against a curb. I was approximately three feet from the curb with my foot on the brake, when the car suddenly accelerated up and over the curb into a flower bed just missing a rock wall. The failure date was Sep. 9, 2011.

See [all problems of the 2007 Acura TL](#).

#4 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2006 Acura TL

The vehicle having this issue was a 2006 Acura TL. The car had a crash. The vehicle identification number (VIN) of this Acura TL is 19UUA66296_. Since leasing car in April 2006 there have been 10 incidents of sudden acceleration. Concluding in an accident 9-20-2006. Company inspected the car for one half hour on September 27 and couldn't find the cause. This problem occurred on Wednesday, Sep. 20, 2006.

See [all problems of the 2006 Acura TL](#).

Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2002 Acura TL

The vehicle was a 2002 Acura 3. 2tl. While driving there was sudden acceleration at high speed, and driver lost control of vehicle. Contact dealer . Vehicle had an engine failure. This car accelerates on its own problem happened on 06/05/02.

See [all problems of the 2002 Acura TL](#).

 #6 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2002 Acura TL

The car involved was a 2002 Acura 3. 2tl. When the vehicle was started, it suddenly accelerated. This problem occurred on Mar. 15, 2003.

 #7 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2002 Acura TL

The vehicle was a 2002 Acura 3. 2tl. Crash was involved with this problem. The VIN of this vehicle is 19UUA56612_. While turning into a driveway, with my foot on the brake the vehicle suddenly accelerated at a high rate of speed causing vehicle and property damage. It was Monday, October 27, 2003 when this car accelerates on its own issue happened.

 #8 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2001 Acura TL

The vehicle is a 2001 Acura 3. 2tl. Crash happened when the problem occurred. The VIN of this vehicle is 19UUA56671_. Consumer was barely going 2mph in a driveway almost stopped and vehicle suddenly accelerated. Consumer was practically standing on brakes, using the left foot and trying to stop the vehicle. Before vehicle stopped accelerating it demolished a brick pump house, a concrete bird bath, and and 2 trees. No contact has been made with dealer. Vehicle has over \$9800 worth of damages. This car accelerates on its own problem happened on Aug. 7, 2001.

See [all problems of the 2001 Acura TL](#).

 #9 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 2000 Acura TL

The vehicle involved is a 2000 Acura 3. 2tl. Vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle is FILL IN PL_. While traveling at approximately 70 mph on highway vehicle suddenly accelerated on its own, going up to 110 mph and would have continued higher. Consumer had to stand on brakes to get vehicle to slow down to 70 mph, when she turned vehicle off. Dealership informed consumer that throttle plate could have caused this defect, and that component was currently on backorder. Please provide any additional information/attachments. This issue happened on May 15, 2001.

See [all problems of the 2000 Acura TL](#).

 #10 - Car Accelerates On Its Own problem of the 1997 Acura TL

The vehicle was a 1997 Acura TL. There was crash involved with this Acura TL. The vehicle identification number (VIN) of this Acura TL is JH4UA2653V_. Vehicle lurched forward / suddenly accelerated, causing a crash. Dealer could not determine the cause of the problem. Please provide further information. The failure date was Monday, August 2, 1999.

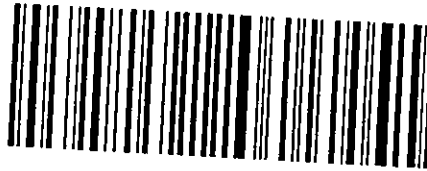
See [all problems of the 1997 Acura TL](#).

DATE	MILEAGE	WORK DONE – ACURA DEALER	Charges	Inspection Check List Recommendations
11/20/99	3,552	Oil Change & Filter	\$4.88	
6/17/00	6,108	Oil Change & Filter	26.45	
2/3/01	9,407	7,500 mi service – Chg Oil & Filter, Rotate & Balance Tires: Remaining 8/32 front – 6/32 Rear, inspect for wear & damage	132.46	
3/29/01	10,210	Inspection, Replace wipers	8.12	
7/3/01	11,834	Oil Change & Filter	26.45	
10/5/01	13,617	Oil Change & Filter	26.45	15K Svc – air filter dirty
1/4/02	15,618	Oil Change & 15K Service Air Cleaner \$19.06	255.93	
1/15/02	15,852	Wipers – Must hold handle back until starts	0	
3/20/02	16,804	State Inspection	0	
5/20/02	18,531	Oil Change & Filter	26.45	
8/6/02	19,921	Safety Recall – 3.2TL Ignition Switch	0	\$39- Auto Sound to repair auto start due to Acura repair
10/8/02	21,463	22,500 mile service – Change Oil & Filter Tires-Front & Rear– 6/32; Brakes Front & Rear-5/B	143.19	Front Rotar resurface & brake pad replacement
3/13/03	23,238	Inspect Brakes & Advise: Front Rotors out of round – re- surfaced front rotors, cleaned & lubed all brake hardware. Did not need to replace pads at this time. Oil Change & Filter, replaced rubber blades	36.42	Brake System under warranty – no charge
9/18/03	26,610	Oil Change & Filter	26.45	
10/16/03	27,053	Drain, Flush, Replace Coolant, requested rotate & wheel alignment & was informed the tires measurement was under ½ and recommended not to have this done. I elected to purchase 4 new tires & have tires balanced.	839.73	Resurface Front Rotars & Replace Front Brake Pads – Rare Brakes 3/32 - 30,000 mile service - Tires & Coolant change falls under 30,000 mi. svc – This should have taken care of my 30,000 mile service. I question their brake system repair & recommendations.
		Total paid to Acura through 10/16/03 ----->	\$1,552.98	
04/08/08	47,630	REPLACED EGR VALVE N/C – TIMING BELT & TENSIONER, DRIVE BELTS, WATER PUMP & COOLANT,	\$1,075.00	
		TAX	64.50	
			\$1,139.50	

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			64.50	
			\$1,139.50	

Easton, PA 18045 1211

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE
CERTIFIED MAIL



7012 0470 0000 6274 7119



1000



20590

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, PA
18045
FEB 20, 13
AMOUNT

\$7.57
00042651-13

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