



BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

[Redacted]

Associate Physician  
Division of Rheumatology, Immunology, Allergy

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

ATTN:  
NATIONAL TRANSPORT SAFETY BOARD  
Headquarters  
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594  
Telephone (202) 314-6000

MAR - 7 2013

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
2013 MAR - 5 P 1:57  
RECEIVED - NHTSA

January 19, 2013

Dear NTSB Representative:

Please find attached a report on a road accident in Newton, MA on January 17, 2013. There has been a concern about safety issues in the new BMW X1 vehicles, recently introduced in USA last Fall.

Kindly look into it as appropriate and let us know?  
Thanks for your time and effort!

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

FACR

Director, Clinical Rheumatology & Training Program  
Harvard Medical School (Brigham and Women's Hospital)

Boston VA Medical Center [Medical Svs. Line -111]

[Redacted address line]

West Roxbury, MA

Tel: [Redacted]

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[Redacted address line]

[Redacted address line] Boston, MA

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Email: [Redacted]

NAM  
3113  
SMD



January 19, 2013

**ATTN.  
BMW Customer Services  
USA & Germany**

**Dear BMW Quality & Risk Management Team:**

**I am writing to inform you of a potential flaw in the Air Bag system in the BMW X1 SAVs, introduced in the United States in the Fall of 2012.**

**I bought one of these early arrivals, a BMW X1 28i x-drive in September, 2012. There were a few glitches as compared to my past BMWs/other premium cars and those were relayed to the local Dealer and taken care of. However, a recent incident has prompted me to write to you directly:**

**On January 18, 2013 morning, I was driving my daughter (a front seat passenger) to her school when a careless driver jumped a STOP sign and we hit each other perpendicularly at moderate to high speed. A plainclothes policeman, who happened to be there per chance, witnessed the whole incident. It will be clear from the attached photos and the Police report, the damage to both vehicles was substantial. The other drive was driving an older BMW 2001 model. His side Air bags came out promptly. Nobody was hurt except for the initial shock of the accident to all, especially my thirteen year old. Amazingly, none of my Air bags deployed which befuddled the police officers, others, and myself. *I was driving at more than 30 (Thirty) mph.* In such a speedy head-on collision, you will hope and expect for the front air bags to be quickly responsive and protective.**

**For now, both vehicles appear to be "total loss vehicles" and I will have to get a different vehicle, BMW or any other brand.**

**I am aware of past problems re. Airbags in other models of BMW Vehicles – recently in Detroit News, and in 2008**

**([http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/autos/2008-08-13-bmw-recall-air-bag\\_N.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/money/autos/2008-08-13-bmw-recall-air-bag_N.htm)). I now wonder if my X1 had defective air bags, which failed to deploy. This seems to be a significant concern for now and if not addressed promptly – may bloom into bigger legal and business issues. Since X1 is a newly introduced SAV in the USA, I would not be surprised if there is indeed an issue. I would like your experts to look into it as soon as possible. I am willing to part with my damaged X1 SAV for factory analysis if okay with my Insurance company legally.**

**I am enclosing the reference pictures and will be happy to send the complete set of pictures and the official Police Report. I am send a copy of these documents to the relevant stakeholders as well. Please respond ASAP – I look forward to your comments and remediation. My contact information is as below.**

**Thank you for timely attention and effort!**

**Sincerely,**

**[Redacted Signature]**

**Harvard Medical School  
Brigham And Women's Hospital  
Director, Rheumatology Clinical Services**

**[Redacted Contact Information]**



BMW X1





BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

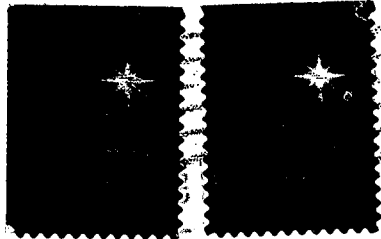


Boston, MA

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National Transportation Safety Board  
Headquarters  
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

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