



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

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

March 15, 2016

[REDACTED]
Greenleaf, WI [REDACTED]

NEF-160 nlm
Ref. No. 10806980

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2002 Buick LeSabre. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI). Due to the volume of letters our Agency received in 2015, we are just now responding to your letter and regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor vehicles or 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 defect trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicate that there are an alarming number of non-crash related engine fires in MY 2002 Buick LeSabre vehicles. In a recent visit to a local salvage yard noticed 52 vehicles had engine fires, of which 4 resulted in severe damage. You also state that a salvage lot employee advised that these vehicles have a much higher rate of engine fires than other vehicles. You are concerned for your safety and request that NHTSA look into the engine fires.

ODI is monitoring all available data concerning engine fires in MY 1998 through MY 2004 Buick LeSabre vehicles; however, no determinations have been reached at this time. For your information, an explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our Web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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