



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

October 27, 2016

[REDACTED]  
Bridgeton, NJ [REDACTED]

NEF-109 rrr  
Ref. No. 10851617

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2001 Jeep Cherokee. The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Due to the unprecedented amount of correspondence received by our office for the Takata air bag recalls, we are now just getting to your letter. Please accept our apologies for this delay.

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 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.

Please accept NHTSA's sincere sympathy for the injuries you and your girlfriend sustained in the crash. We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists that may cause the air bags not to deploy in MY 2001 Jeep Cherokee vehicles during frontal crash. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. 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. For your information, NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our web site at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm).

A number of factors, other than crash severity, can affect whether an air bag will deploy in a specific crash, e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the involved vehicles, and the amount of force absorbed by vehicles or objects that are impacted. When provided with all necessary details and particularly after an opportunity to examine the vehicle(s) involved in a crash, an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash. We recommend that you continue to work with FCA for any additional information regarding the air bag non-deployment.

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.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) 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 our website.

Sincerely,

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

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