

Apparently the email didn't go

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Aug. 17, 2019

Email sent to NHTSA:

I bought a 2019 Honda Accord, and while driving home, a car cut in front of me and stopped. I heard a beep, but there was no automatic braking. I was just able to stop my car before it crashed. I went home and decided to try out the car's automatic braking on several parked cars and trucks in my neighborhood. I would get near the curb and drive directly towards the parked car or truck, swerving at the last second to avoid a collision. In no case was there any automatic braking. I went to the dealer and told them there was a problem. They checked the car and said there was no problem, because the instruments showed that all safety devices were working. But they had no real test to prove it!

I googled "automatic braking fails", and see that many new cars had auto braking that did not work. Some crashed badly. I also saw that they have balloon cars (some the size and shape of real cars) that can be parked, and then drive your car into them. Most cars stopped, but some blasted into the balloon with no automatic braking at all. Shouldn't every dealer in today's high tech world have a balloon car for testing automatic brakes? I hear these balloon cars are expensive, but why couldn't dealers at least buy a used foam rubber mattress which could be put on its side, and drive the car into that?

I also believe some manufacturer could develop a really cheap balloon the size of a car's rear end, and thus allow cars to be tested when their automatic brakes appear to have a problem.

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