

March 29, 2022

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

Eagan, MN

Department of Transportation
NHTSA
Office of Defects Investigation (NV5-210)
12000 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
West Building
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear sir or madam,

Attached is a report of an incident I encountered a short time ago. The complaint number 11457955. Other than acknowledging receipt, I have not had a response. I called your office and the agent informed me that, to petition for escalation, I need to send this letter to you.

My reasons for asking for escalation are twofold: First, there is no doubt that this is a life-or-death situation. As you can read in my event write-up, it was only pure luck that I (as well as others in oncoming cars) were not killed or severely injured. Second, it is entirely possible that this type of accident is happening on a regular basis with tragic results and the drivers of offending vehicles do not know the root cause. I am pretty sure this problem extends beyond my 2017 Audi A4 because I had the same experience years ago with another Audi A4. I believe it is a problem for all Audi vehicles and, perhaps, an industry issue as well.

For these reasons, I am asking that you escalate this incident and conduct a further deep dive to determine whether it is likely to be more widespread. It has lethal potential for many drivers. (It could also mean that I'm the only stupid driver on the planet! 😊)

I'd be happy to talk to you or anyone in your department. My cell phone number is

Thanks for "listening"!

I have been an Audi A4 owner for more than 10 years. During that time, I have had 2 incidents where I could have easily been killed or injured as well as injuring or killing passengers in oncoming vehicles. The latest was this morning on March 23, 2022. The other was nearly 10 years ago. My personal investigation has led me to a conclusion that I have not yet seen anywhere else.

In both cases, I am trying to get into a heavy flow of traffic. I know that I will have to "gun it" to get up to speed. For that reason, I have one foot on the accelerator and one on the brake. When traffic opens to where I think it is safe to proceed, I press the accelerator while my foot is still on the brake. In the situation this morning, I intended to execute a sharp right turn into the closest lane of a road with 2-lanes going in that direction. I pressed the accelerator hard while turning the steering wheel. Instead of turning right, the car shot across both lanes of traffic, wiped out a traffic sign and entered the lanes of oncoming traffic. I had zero control. It was only dumb luck that I avoided traffic in both directions (both of which were travelling at roughly 60 mph).

Even though I knew about this risk from my earlier incident, I didn't think about it at the time.

I realize that my actions send conflicting signals to the car (go/don't go), but the last thing the car should do is propel itself forward with no control on the part of the driver.

I don't know if this is limited to Audi or the A4, but I wanted to make my experience public to possibly avoid a serious or fatal accident by someone else. It is very avoidable with proper knowledge and attention.

I'd be interested in knowing if you have been notified of any other incidents of this type.



Eagon, NW



FT MYERS FL 390

31 MAR 2002 PM 5 L



Department of Transportation

NHTSA

Office of Defects Investigation

NV5-210

1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.

West Building

Washington, D.C. 20590

20590-

