



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



July 31, 2025

██████████
██████████
Ephrata, PA ██████████

NEF-109 rrr
Ref. No. 11629733

Dear ██████████:

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2009 Mini Cooper vehicle. Your letter was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injuries, and reduce economic costs due to road traffic crashes, through education, research, safety standards, and enforcement activity. I am pleased to respond.

We appreciate the report you provided. Among other enforcement activities, NHTSA continuously monitors available information to identify potential safety defect trends. As such, reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Please accept our sincere sympathy on the total loss of your MY 2009 Mini Cooper due to a vehicle fire. Your vehicle was included in NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 23V337. The electronic control module in the driver's side footwell area may short-circuit due to corrosion from water and road salt. In rare cases, this problem could cause a fire.

We understand your concerns on what caused the fire in your vehicle. Unfortunately, BMW/Mini Cooper's remedy for Recall 23V337 was not available until May 2024, which is after your April 11, 2024, vehicle fire. Also, please note that a number of factors, other than a manufacturer's safety defect can cause a vehicle fire, e.g., leaking fuel, oil and fluids, road debris, lack of maintenance, component wear, engine overheating, etc. When provided with all necessary details and particularly after an opportunity to examine the vehicle, an expert in fire reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to why a vehicle caught fire. We encourage you to continue to work with BMW/Mini Cooper, your dealer, and insurance company regarding any unresolved issues pertaining to the vehicle fire.

We entered your information into NHTSA's database, where it will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2024-11/MVSDefectsandRecalls-Update_112124_v1a_tag.pdf.

Finally, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire on our website at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236 if you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future. You can also review complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. on our website. I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,



Randy Reid, Chief
Consumer Engagement Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement