



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

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
1-888-327-4236
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Date Received

RECEIVED
DO MAR 30 PM 12:06
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Od_or _____
rt_dt _____
od_rt _____
up_ltr _____

Form No.

551617

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☒ YES ☐ NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner

Date 3/18/00

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) (17 Digits) 1B3CW5210R4324022	(Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side)	Vehicle Make Oldsmobile	Vehicle Model 98 Regency Elite	Vehicle Year 1994	Current Odometer Reading 66517
Purchased Date 2/94	Dealer's Name Prime Oldsmobile (now closed)	Engine Size (CID/CO/L) No. Cylinders	☐ Turbo ☐ Diesel ☒ Gas ☐ Fuel Injection		
☐ New ☐ Used	Dealer's City Arlington, MA	State MA	Zip Code		
Transmission Type ☐ Manual ☒ Automatic	Antilock Brakes ☒ Yes ☐ No	Restraint System ☒ Driverside Airbag ☐ Motorbelt ☒ Passengerside Airbag ☐ 2-Point Belt ☐ 3-Point Belt	Cruise Control ☒ Yes ☐ No	Drivetrain ☒ Front ☐ Rear ☐ 4 Wheel	Vehicle Type ☒ Car ☐ Sport Utr. ☐ Van ☐ Truck ☐ Minivan ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Other
Body Style ☐ 2-Door ☒ 4-Door ☐ Stationwagon ☐ Pick Up Truck ☐ Other					

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component Airbags	Part Name(s) Drivers + Passenger Airbags	Location ☒ Left ☒ Right ☒ Front ☐ Rear	Failed Part(s) ☒ Original ☐ Replacement
No. of Failures both	Date(s) of Failure(s) 5/15/98	Failed Part(s) Available? ☒ Yes ☐ No	NHTSA Previously Contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Mileage at Failure(s) Vehicle Speed at Failure(s): 55-60 MPH			

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies) on the back of this form)

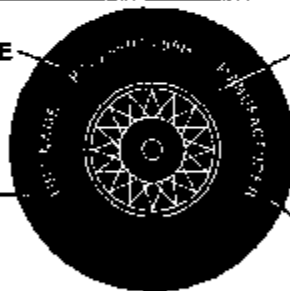
Crash ☒ Yes ☐ No	Fire ☐ Yes ☒ No	Number Persons Injured 1	Number of Fatalities 0	Estimated Property Damage \$ 16,000.00	Reported to Police ☒ Yes ☐ No
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INFORMATION ON TIRE FAILURE(S) (IF APPLICABLE)

To report defective or failed tires provide the following: DOT Number, Tire Manufacturer, Tire Name, Tire Size (include all numbers and letters).
Note: This information not required for normal operation tires.

DOT		Manufacturer	Tire Name	Complete Tire Size
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TIRE SIZE

TIRE
NAMETIRE
MANUFACTURER

U.S. DOT safety standard code

The number may be on the inner side of the tire and have up to 11 letters and numbers. Usually located near rim flange on side opposite whitewall or on either side of blackwall tire.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response maybe used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

The enclosed letter best describes what happened.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
DOT Auto Safety Hotline, NSA-10.1
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



**VEHICLE
OWNER'S
QUESTIONNAIRE**

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR

DASH2DOT

and dial toll free at

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-4236

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
(DASH) 2 DOT



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline>



February 28, 2000

ESIS Unit
300 Renaissance Center
Mail Code 482 C20 D71
Detroit, MI 48265-3000

Re: File No: 980076413 Representative Joe Fochesato
File No. 000006526 Representative: James Lue
ESIS Claim Number: 2921-259-344320

Vin # 1G3CW5210R4324022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to request a response from this department regarding the issue of damages sustained on May 15, 1998 when I was traveling at 50-60 MPH, lost consciousness due to hypoglycemia and hit a tree. Neither of the two air bags in my vehicle deployed.

The accident occurred on Friday, May 15, 1998. I called the Federal Department of Transportation on Monday, May 18, 1998 and learned that air bags are supposed to deploy at speeds of 11-16 MPH. After discussing the issue, I was told to contact Oldsmobile and report the deficiency in these units. I called Oldsmobile and after a discussion with a representative, I was put through to Mr. Joe Fochesato. He took the information i.e., location of vehicle, accident particulars etc. He said I would be hearing from Oldsmobile after the vehicle was examined by an Oldsmobile representative.

My car had been towed to the Oldsmobile dealership closest to my home. The original dealer was out of business. A representative from Oldsmobile went to the dealership and inspected the car. He took numerous photographs at that time and checked the air bag status. He returned a second time to assess the situation again. This occurred before there had been any repairs started on the car, as the estimate was not complete.

After numerous calls back and forth, on June 11, 1998, Mr. Fochesato told me he was referring

this accident to ESIS and I could expect to hear from them. I received a letter from Susan Johnson, Claim Administrator at ESIS-GM Central Claims Unit, dated June 24, 1998, advising me that she had assigned Ms. Karol Sullivan to handle the investigation locally and I should expect to hear from her. (Copy attached) Ms. Sullivan called and set an appointment for July 30, 1998 at 10AM to come to photograph the car.

I picked up my car on July 24, 1998, 71 days after the accident. This should signify how extensive the damage was. On the day she had called, I explained to Ms. Sullivan that the car was still at the dealership being repaired. She did not indicate any interest or desire to see the car while it was still being repaired. The repair costs were approximately \$15,000. This was not a minor accident.

On July 30, 1998, Ms. Sullivan arrived and photographed the car, inside and out, and also spoke with me about the details of the accident.

After hearing nothing from ESIS or Oldsmobile, I decided to hire an attorney to resolve this matter. My attorney sent a letter of representation to Ms. Johnson on October 1, 1998. (Copy attached) I am no longer represented by this attorney. In an effort to avoid lengthy litigation, I contacted Oldsmobile again and see if it was something that we may possibly be able to reach resolution on between ourselves, instead of through the Court. Mr. Lue advised me that this would be a matter for ESIS and recommended I contact them directly.

In the meantime, I am a 63 year old insulin dependent diabetic who is driving a vehicle without the security of an airbag system that will deploy properly if necessary. This certainly doesn't speak commendably of Oldsmobile. Oldsmobile is/was aware that the air bags did not deploy. The accident was severe enough to expect that they should have deployed. I may not have suffered all of the ill effects if they had deployed properly.

As I previously stated, this is an attempt to settle this matter equitably without the Courts. I hope to hear from an Oldsmobile representative in the near future. Otherwise, I am left with no option but to go forward with a claim.

Sincerely,



Enclosures