

U.S. Department  
of TransportationNational Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

## Auto Safety Hotline

## Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393  
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123  
INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

## FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 151

Date Received

27-DEC-1999

Ocd\_or \_\_\_\_\_  
rt\_dt \_\_\_\_\_  
od\_rt \_\_\_\_\_  
up\_ltr \_\_\_\_\_

Reference No.

854423

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

Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) _____ <small>(Listed at front of windshield or driver's side)</small>	Vehicle Make <b>CHEVROLET TRUI</b>	Vehicle Model <b>BLAZER</b>	Vehicle Year <b>1996</b>	Current Odometer Reading
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Purchase Date	Dealer's Name _____	Engine Size (CID/CC/L) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injection
<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used	City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____	No. Cylinders _____	

Transmission Type <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic	Antilock Brakes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Restraint System <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbell <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Belt	Cruise Control <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Drive Train <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sport Ult. Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle	Body Style <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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## FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component 12112200	Part Name(s) INTERIOR SYSTEMS:PASSIVE RESTRAINT:AIR BAG:SIDE DOOR:DR	Location <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Rear	Failed Part(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
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No. of Failures	Date(s) of Failure(s) _____ Mileage at Failure(s) _____ Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) _____	Failed Part(s) Available? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	NHTSA Previously Contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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## APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies) on the back of this form.)


Crash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured	Number of Fatalities	Estimated Property Damage	Reported to Police <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)

VEHICLE WAS INVOLVED IN A FRONTAL CRASH WHILE DRIVING 20MPH AND HIT THE BOTTOM OF A RAVINE. UPON IMPACT, DRIVER'S SIDE AIRBAG DID NOT DEPLOY. DEALER HAS SEEN VEHICLE, AND SAID IT DID NOT AFFECT THE SENSORS. \*AK

CONTINUED ON BACK PLEASE

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 may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Auto Safety Hotline		FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 15'	
 <p>U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration</p>		<p><b>Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire</b></p> <p>NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393 DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123 INTERNET: <a href="http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov">http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov</a></p>	
OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)		<p>Date Received <u>27-DEC-1999</u></p> <p>OFFICE DEFECTS INVESTIGATION</p> <p>Reference No. <u>854423</u></p>	
<p>Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.</p>		<p>Work Number _____</p> <p>Home Number _____</p>	
Signature of Owner _____ Date <u>1/1</u>			
VEHICLE INFORMATION			
Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) (Located at bottom of windshield or driver's side)	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Year
<u>1GNDT13W9T2158657</u>	<u>CHEVROLET TRU</u>	<u>BLAZER 4X4</u>	<u>1996</u>
Purchase Date	Dealer's Name	Engine Size (CID/CC/L)	Current Odometer Reading
<u>Oct '95</u>	<u>Phillips Automotive</u>	<u>4.3</u>	<u>30 thousand plus</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Used <u>BOUGHT NEW</u>	City <u>Delta</u> State <u>CO</u> Zip Code <u>81416</u>	No Cylinders <u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Turbo <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Injection
Transmission Type	Antilock Brakes	Restraint System	Cruise Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Motorbelt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driverside Airbag <input type="checkbox"/> 2-Point Belt <input type="checkbox"/> Passengerside Airbag	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Drive Train	Vehicle Type	Body Style	
<input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Rear <input type="checkbox"/> 4-Wheel	<input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Van <input type="checkbox"/> Minivan <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sport Util <input type="checkbox"/> Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Door <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4-Door <input type="checkbox"/> Stationwagon <input type="checkbox"/> Pick Up Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION			
Component	Part Name(s)	Location	Failed Part(s)
<u>12142200</u>	<u>INTERIOR SYSTEMS:PASSIVE RESTRAINT:AIR BAG:SIDE DOOR:D</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Front <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Rear	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement
No of Failures	Date(s) of Failure(s)	Failed Part(s) Available?	NHTSA Previously Contacted?
	<u>13 Dec '99</u> Mileage at Failure(s) <u>30 THOUSAND PLUS</u> Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) <u>20 TO 30 MPH</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
APPLICATION INCIDENT INFORMATION			
(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies) on the back of this form)			
Crash	Fire	Number of Persons Injured	Number of Fatalities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<u>2</u>	
Estimated Property Damage		Reported to Police	
<u>\$9000 TO CAR</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <u>COLO. STATE PATROL</u>	
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FAILURE(S), INCIDENT(S), INJURY(IES)			
<p>VEHICLE WAS INVOLVED IN A FRONTAL CRASH WHILE DRIVING 20MPH AND HIT THE BOTTOM OF A RAVINE. UPON IMPACT, DRIVER'S SIDE AIRBAG DID NOT DEPLOY. DEALER HAS SEEN VEHICLE, AND SAID IT DID NOT AFFECT THE SENSORS. *AK</p>			
CONTINUE ON BACK IF NEEDED			
<p>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 may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.</p>			

[REDACTED]  
9 Jan 2000

U.S. DOT  
Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Adm'n  
DOT Auto Safety Hotline, NSA-10.1  
4007<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington D. C. 20590

On Dec 13th 1999 my wife was driving my '96 Chevy blazer 4X4 with my 45 year old daughter in the front passenger seat. They were driving uphill on a gravel, county maintained road that was snowpacked and icy. The car hit a washboard section, began to fishtail and went off the shoulder. The road dropped off at about a 70-degree angle into a ravine. The car did not roll. The underside of the car hit a large boulder, which spun it into a nose down position. It accelerated front end first down the slope to the bottom of the ravine. At the time they left the road, my daughter noticed the speed - indicating about 20 mph. The car impacted the left front fender and hood areas - hard enough to buckle the roof of the car above the drivers left front door post. The air bag did not deploy. The repairmen in the body shop showed me the location of the two front sensors. It is my understanding that the sensor information is fed into a small computer - along with information from the speedometer. The Colorado State Highway Patrolman who handled the accident told me that my Blazer was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Blazer frontal impact accident he'd personally investigated in the previous 2 weeks where the airbags had failed to deploy. In the body shop where my Blazer is located there is one just like it -with frontal impact damage - and no airbag deployment. In my opinion there are a lot of Blazer owners driving around the USA thinking they have air bag protection, and that may in fact be a long way from the truth!!! My wife suffered a severe compression fracture of the upper lumbar vertebrae (a broken back) and my daughter suffered fractures of the numbers 5,6, & 7 cervical vertebrae (a broken neck). Both were airlifted from the Montrose CO hospital to St. Mary's hospital in Grand Junction CO where both underwent an MRI scan. My wife is in a body cast from her shoulders to her pelvis. My daughter required neurosurgery with bone replacement in the neck, and titanium plates screwed to either side of her cervical vertebrae. By the grace of God, neither will be paralyzed.

May I suggest a recall notice on these vehicles to see why the air bags are not deploying??!! I will be consulting with a product liability lawyer to discuss possible legal action.

[REDACTED]  
Cc President, General Motors  
Cc US DOT  
Office of Defects Investigation, NSA - 10.1  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington D.C. 20590