

Investigation Action Plan
RQ98-013: Oversensitive Air Bag Deployments

- **Date Investigation Opened:** 8/26/98
- **Issue:** The air bags can inadvertently deploy from a minor frontal impact or an undercarriage impact (short duration) of low mass, high frequency such as a small stone hitting the floor pan. The subject vehicles, 1996-97 Grand Am, 1997 Grand Prix, utilize the same SDMs as those used in the Cavalier and Sunfire vehicles in recall 98V-146.
- **Recall 97V-058:** On June 26, 1998, General Motors began a safety recall, 98V-146, to recalibrate the air bag Sensing and Diagnostic Module (SDM) in the 1996 and some 1997 J body cars, Cavalier and Sunfire. Due to certain calibrations in the air bag SDM, there is an increased risk of inadvertent air bag deployment in a low speed crash or when an object strikes the floor pan. The recall population consists of 675,302 vehicles built from April 1995 through May 1997.
- **Scope:** 1996-97 Grand Am and 1997 Grand Prix.
- **Scope Population and Reports:**

Model Year	Model	Population	Complaints		Total Complaints	Rates Per 10K
			ODI	GM		
1996	Grand Am	296,339	3	36	39	1.32
1997	Grand Am	210,915	2	21	23	1.09
1997	Grand Prix	143,626	2	6	8	0.56
Total		650,880	7	63	70	1.08

- Comparing to the rates of the recalled models, Cavaliers and Sunfires at the time of the recall was initiated, June 11, 1998:

Model Year	Model	Population	Complaints	Rates Per 10K
1996-97	Cavaliers & Sunfires	675,302	223	3.30

- **Current Status:**
 - Received GM response on 12/18/98.
 - The complaint frequency, per 10,000 vehicles, of the subject vehicles is about one-third of the recalled vehicles, 1.08 to 3.30. Consider the exposure factor, the rates are even less for the subject vehicles.
 - Currently, GM is investigating a recent airbag deployment incident occurred in Virginia. ODI is requesting GM to provide the investigation report.

- **Next Action:** Unless the report reveals new information, due to the low numbers of complaints and rates, the RQ will be closed and RAD will continue to monitor for new complaints.

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