



ODI RESUME

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

Investigation: EA 01-009
Prompted By: SQ00-018
Date Opened: 03/02/2001 Date Closed: 08/19/2003
Principal Investigator: John Ridgley
Subject: Sector Shaft Fractures

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 1999-2001 Ford Super Duty F-Series, 2000-2001 Excursions
Population: 1,306,615 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Alleged steering sector shaft may fracture causing complete loss of steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 39 | 130 | 169 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 33 | 45 | 78 |
| Injury Incidents: | 12 | 14 | 26 |
| # Injuries: | 13 | 15 | 28 |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # Fatalities: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other*: | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Description of Other:

Action: Close Engineering Analysis EA01-009.

Engineer: John Ridgley Date: 08/25/2003
Div. Chief: Gregory E. Magno Date: 08/25/2003
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 08/25/2003

Summary: This EA was opened based on a response received from Ford Motor Company to an information request (IR) submitted during SQ00-018. Ford stated in an internal service message that it had changed the steering gear sector shafts and pitman arms installed 1999 model year F-Series super duty vehicles on March 22, 1999. Ford stated that these design changes were implemented to make improvements in vehicle steering and handling, and that virtually all of the reported fractured sector shafts were the result of extraordinary, possibly multiple, impacts.

An Engineering Analysis closing report is attached.