



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-005

Prompted By: PE02-086

Date Opened: 04/23/2003

Date Closed: 01/12/2004

Principal Investigator: CHRIS LASH

Subject: REAR AXLE TRAILING ARM FAILURE

Manufacturer: GENERAL MOTORS CORP.

Products: 1997-1999 VENTURE/TRANSPORT/SILHOUETTE (GM "U-VAN")

Population: 507016

**Problem Description:** CONSUMERS ALLEGE THAT WHILE DRIVING AND WITHOUT WARNING, A REAR-AXLE TRAILING ARM COULD BREAK AND CAUSE THE DRIVER TO LOSE CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7	10	17
Crashes/Fires:	0	2	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	4	4

\*Description of Other: PROPERTY DAMAGE INCIDENTS

Action: THIS ENGINEERING ANALYSIS HAS BEEN CLOSED.

Engineer: Christopher Lash *CL*

Date: 01/12/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 01/12/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/12/2004

**Summary:** ON NOVEMBER 18, 2002, ODI OPENED A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION (PE02-086) TO EVALUATE ALLEGATIONS OF REAR AXLE TRAILING ARM FAILURES IN THE SUBJECT VEHICLES (U-VAN) WHICH INCLUDED TWO REPORTING CRASHES. ON APRIL 9, 2003, ODI UPGRADED PE02-086 TO AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS (EA03-005) TO CONTINUE ITS EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE.

☐ THE TRAILING ARM DESIGN IN THESE VEHICLES HAS BEEN USED IN THE U-VAN FROM MY 1997 THROUGH THE PRESENT. THE GM ANALYSIS CONCLUDED THAT THE SUBJECT TRAILING ARMS COULD CRACK OR BUCKLE IF THEY WERE DAMAGED DURING ASSEMBLY, PRE-DELIVERY HANDLING, OR SUBJECTED TO CERTAIN SERVICE RELATED ABUSE CONDITIONS SUCH AS IMPROPER TOWING OR JACKING. ANALYSIS OF ODI AND GM DATA HAS IDENTIFIED 19 INCIDENTS OF REAR AXLE TRAILING ARM FAILURES IN THE SUBJECT VEHICLES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW REPORTS TO ODI OR GM IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS AND ONLY ONE NEW COMPLAINT IN THE LAST 21 MONTHS.

☐ DUE TO THE LOW COMPLAINT RATE AND THE ABSENCE OF A CONTINUING TREND IN REPORTED FAILURES, A SAFETY RELATED DEFECT HAS NOT BEEN

*VIN  
1-15-04*