



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-025
Prompted By: PE03-035
Date Opened: 11/25/2003 Date Closed: 05/07/2004
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Subject: Drivers Side Dash Fire

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc
Products: 1999-2000 Audi A6
Population: 51,091

Problem Description: Complainants allege that while driving, a fire started in the drivers side dashboard.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	19	24
Crashes/Fires:	5	19	24
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	0	1

*Description of Other: Property damage to owner's garage

Action: This investigation is closed. Audi is conducting a safety recall (NHTSA recall no. 04V-133)

Engineer: Cynthia Glass
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The subject vehicles are equipped with a knee bolster located under the dash, near the drivers knees. A wiring harness is also located in the dash, in that same area. Audi's analysis of 39 vehicles indicated that the knee bolster was rubbing against that wiring harness. Over time, the harness sheathing wears away and the wires come into contact with the metal knee bolster, resulting in a fire. Audi will conduct a safety recall on an expanded scope of Audi A6 vehicles, to add a plastic cap to the top of the knee bolster bracket, which will prevent abrasion to the wiring harness.

Audi will recall 186,000 MY 1998-2004 Audi A6 vehicles. ODI is aware of a total of 24 warranty, field and consumer reports for these vehicles. The recall is identified by NHTSA number 04V-133.

5/12/04