



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 03-049
Prompted By: CONSUMER COMPLAINTS
Date Opened: 10/23/2003
Principal Investigator: TOM BOWMAN
Subject: TAILGATE SUPPORT CABLES

Manufacturer: GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
Products: 1999 - 2002 SILVERADO PICKUP TRUCKS
Population: 2000000

Problem Description: When the tailgate is in the open (horizontal) position, one or both tailgate support cables can break, dropping the tailgate-supported individual and/or cargo to the ground without warning

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	16	0	16
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	5	0	5
# Injuries:	5	0	5
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: OPEN A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Engineer: Thomas Bowman
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: Since January 2002 ODI has received 16 reports in which consumers have reported that the tailgate had dropped unexpectedly after one or both of the tailgate support cables had broken. Five of these reported incidents resulted in personal injuries. In two of the reported injury incidents, a consumer had been standing or sitting on the tailgate and was dropped to the ground, causing injury. In two other reported injury incidents, consumers had been loading the vehicle using a ramp when the tailgate support cable broke, dropping both the consumer and cargo to the ground. One of the consumers was injured by the fall; the other consumer was injured by the falling cargo.

ODI will commence an investigation to determine the scope and severity of this problem.

MS
Fixed on
10/24/03