



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-010
Prompted By: PE03-002
Date Opened: 07/02/2003
Principal Investigator: MICHAEL LEE
Subject: FRONTAL AIR BAG NON-DEPLOYMENT IN CRASH

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Products: 2000-2001 FORD TAURUS AND MERCURY SABLE
Population: 895,936

Problem Description: FRONTAL AIR BAGS MAY NOT DEPLOY IN CERTAIN SEVERE FRONTAL CRASHES.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	1	0	1
# Fatalities:	1	0	1
Other*:	35	260	295

*Description Of Other: COMPLAINTS ALLEGING FRONTAL AIR BAG NON-DEPLOYMENT FOR ANY (SEVERITY) FRONTAL OR NEAR-FRONTAL CRASH.

Action: AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: Michael Lee MSL

Date: 07/02/2003

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 07/02/2003

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/02/2003

Summary: Ford Motor Company has identified 260 reports alleging frontal air bag non-deployment for any (severity) frontal or near-frontal crash on model year 2000-2001 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable vehicles. Additional crash reports are contained in NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) database. The single ODI report listed in the report summary is NHTSA's Special Crash Investigation's Case No. CA00-020 that involved a high-speed crash non-deployment involving a driver fatality and front passenger injury. An Engineering Analysis has been opened and ODI will collect additional information on certain crash reports and conduct further study of this issue.

MSL
7/3/03