



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-011
Prompted By: RQ03-005, RECALL 98V-183
Date Opened: 07/17/2003
Principal Investigator: SCOTT YON
Subject: AUTO TRANS IGNITION-PARK INTERLOCK

Manufacturer: DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION
Products: 1999 BREEZE, CIRBUS, SEBRING CONVERTIBLE, AND STRATUS
Population: 216668

Problem Description: IGNITION KEY ALLEGEDLY CAN BE REMOVED FROM IGNITION SWITCH WITH TRANSMISSION SHIFTER IN NON-PARK POSITION, OR SHIFTER CAN BE MOVED FROM PARK WHILE IGNITION IS IN OFF POSITION. EITHER CONDITION CAN LEAD TO THE VEHICLE ROLLING AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	110	113
Crashes/Fires:	3	28	29
Injury Incidents:	0	5	5
# Injuries:	0	5	5
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1188	1188

*Description Of Other: WARRANTY REPAIRS TO SHIFT MECHANISM AND SHIFT CABLE
Action: THIS ENGINEERING ANALYSIS HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: D. Scott Yon *by 7/16/03*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/17/2003
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Summary: THREE OF THE MANUFACTURER COMPLAINTS AND TWO OF THE MANUFACTURER CRASHES REPORTED ABOVE WERE DUPLICATES OF ODI REPORTS. THE MAJORITY OF CRASHES OCCURRED AFTER OPERATORS PARKED THE VEHICLE WITHOUT ENGAGING PARK GEAR POSITION; A NON-FUNCTIONAL IGNITION-PARK INTERLOCK SYSTEM SUBSEQUENTLY FAILED TO PREVENT KEY REMOVAL BEFORE THE OPERATORS EXITED THE VEHICLE. MOST OF THE CRASHES WERE MINOR AND INVOLVED MINOR PROPERTY DAMAGE. FOUR OF THE INJURY INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHEN UNATTENDED CHILDREN MOVED THE GEARSHIFT FROM THE PARK POSITION CAUSING THE VEHICLE TO ROLL AWAY, ONE INJURY OCCURRED WHEN THE OPERATOR WAS STRUCK BY A ROLL-AWAY VEHICLE AFTER PARKING AND EXITING. ALL INJURIES WERE RELATIVELY MINOR. A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF INTERLOCK SYSTEM FAILURES APPEAR TO BE RELATED TO DISENGAGEMENT OF THE INTERLOCK PIN THAT RIDES IN THE INTERLOCK LEVER SLOT WITHIN THE SHIFT MECHANISM. AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS WILL BE OPENED TO FURTHER STUDY INTERLOCK SYSTEM FAILURES.

7/16/03