



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA04-027  
Prompted By: PE04-018, Consumer Complaints  
Date Opened: 09/09/2004  
Principal Investigator: Scott Yon  
Subject: Underhood Fires

Manufacturer: American Honda Motor Co.  
Products: MY 2003 - 2004 Honda CR-V  
Population: 280,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Allegations of engine oil leaks resulting in underhood fires.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	45	32	71
Crashes/Fires:	28	22	44
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description Of Other:

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: D. Scott Yon *[Signature]* 9/5/04

Date: 09/09/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 09/09/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/09/2004

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) closed Preliminary Evaluation (PE) 04-018, which involved the same alleged defect in model year (MY) 2003 vehicles, on July 01, 2004 after determining that the investigated vehicle fires were most likely caused by improper service technician work procedures during replacement of the factory installed engine oil filter. A subsequent oil leakage onto a hot exhaust system could result in a vehicle fire. The manufacturer had agreed to issue a communication to the dealer network, and other likely service providers, regarding proper oil filter service procedures and also warning of the potential for vehicle fires.

According to reports, the noted service communication was issued to the dealer network on July 14, 2004. Since the closing date of PE04-018, ODI has received an additional 34 reports involving oil leakage (16 reports) and/or underhood fires (18 reports) on the subject vehicles. Nine of the new reports reflect an incident date later than 7/14/2004, drawing into question the effectiveness of the service communication. Twenty three of these reports involve MY 2004 vehicles (with a total of 28 reports, 18 fires) which were not within the scope of PE04-018. ODI has opened this Engineering Analysis to further investigate these incidents.

The above summary reflects manufacturer counts determined during PE04-018. During the Engineering Analysis, the summary will be updated with the manufacturer's more recent MY 2003 and all MY 2004 reports; the number of duplicate reports (between ODI and manufacturer) will be more accurately determined. The above vehicle population is an estimate.

*Final 9/9/04  
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