



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-044
Prompted By: Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 05/24/2004
Principal Investigator: Greg Magno
Subject: Front suspension coil spring failure

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 1999-2000 Ford Taurus/Mercury Sable
Population: 476,268

Problem Description: Front suspension coil springs may fracture and puncture the adjacent tire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	82		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other: N/A

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened

Engineer: Gregory E. Magno 6-EM 5/24/04

Date: 05/24/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 05/24/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/24/2004

Summary: On April 29, 2003, ODI closed its investigation (PE02-080) of front coil spring failure in Model Year (MY) 1999 Taurus/Sable vehicles on the basis of low complaint rate. At that time, ODI possessed 17 relevant Vehicle Owners Questionnaires (VOQ) concerning MY 1999 vehicles and 3 involving MY 2000. During the past year, ODI has received an additional 27 MY 1999 and 35 MY 2000 VOQs reporting failure of the front suspension coil springs, bringing the overall VOQ total to 82. The newer VOQs appear to resemble the earlier ones, originating in the corrosion states and reporting a fracture that usually occurs in the first active coil above the lower spring seat.

Of the 82 VOQs, 58 reported puncture of the adjacent tire while more than half (50) of the VOQs reported that the driver's side spring failed. On average, the failures are occurring at approximately 55,000 miles and 58 months in service.

ODI is opening a new Preliminary Evaluation to gather updated failure data from the Ford Motor Company.

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5/24/04
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