



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE04-052  
Prompted By: NCAP Testing, Consumer Complaint  
Date Opened: 07/22/2004  
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker  
Subject: Rear Suspension Failure

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.  
Products: 2002 - 2004 Saturn Vue  
Population: 227,303

Problem Description: Rear suspension components may fail in overload in certain severe driving maneuvers.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1		
Crashes/Fires:	1		
Injury Incidents:	1		
# Injuries:	1		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	2		

\*Description Of Other: NHTSA New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) test incidents.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Kyle M. Bowker KMB

Date: 07/22/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 07/22/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/22/2004

Summary: On June 18, 2004, NHTSA conducted NCAP dynamic rollover testing of a MY 2004 Saturn Vue 4-wheel drive sport utility vehicle. The left-rear suspension failed in overload during the 45-mph fishhook maneuver portion of the testing, causing the wheel to collapse beneath the vehicle. A subsequent fishhook test of a two-wheel drive MY 2004 Saturn Vue resulted in similar rear suspension failure.

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received one consumer complaint alleging rear suspension failure in the subject vehicles. The complaint alleges that, when recovering from a road edge departure, the left-rear wheel of a MY 2003 Saturn Vue "bent underneath the vehicle," resulting in a rollover crash. The incident occurred in April 2004.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to evaluate the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

KMB  
7/22/04