



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-060  
Prompted By: IE04-055  
Date Opened: 08/17/2004  
Principal Investigator: Mark Swanson  
Subject: Failing Seat Belt Buckles

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.  
Products: 2000-2001 Cadillac Deville  
Population: 183,884

Problem Description: The driver and/or front passenger seat belt buckle allegedly fails in a crash releasing the latch plate.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
Injury Incidents:	2	0	2
# Injuries:	3	0	3
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	0	1

\*Description Of Other: State Farm Insurance claim (crash with an injury)

Action: The Preliminary Evaluation is opened.

Engineer: Mark B. Swanson *MS*  
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI received two complaints and one State Farm Insurance claim alleging the buckle failed to hold the latch plate during a crash. The complaints allege the buckle housing breaks, releasing the latch plate, and leaving the occupant unrestrained, resulting in injury. One vehicle had failures on the driver and front passenger seating positions. Of the three vehicles with reported seat belt buckle failures, there were four alleged injuries.

*MS* 8/18/04