



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ04-003  
 Prompted By: IE04-040  
 Date Opened: 05/27/2004  
 Principal Investigator: Bruce York  
 Subject: Hydraulic Brake Line Failure

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company  
 Products: 1995-96 Windstar  
 Population: 300,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Brake lines allegedly fail as a result of corrosion and/or abrasion from contact with the vehicles undercarriage.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	44		
Crashes/Fires:	3		
Injury Incidents:	1		
# Injuries:	1		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description Of Other:

Action: A Recall Query has been opened.

Engineer: Bruce York, Jr.

Date: 05/27/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 05/27/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/27/2004

Summary: ODI has received 44 complaints alleging brake line failure on model year (MY) 1995-96 Ford Windstar vehicles. These complaints allege that the brake lines are corroding, abrading, or both as a result of contact with the undercarriage of the vehicle. Many of the complainants are alleging that the brake line failures resulted in increased stopping distances, with three alleging crashes.

In 2002, Ford performed a safety recall campaign on MY 1995-96 Windstar vehicles built at the Oakville assembly plant from the start of MY 1995 through May 21, 1996, and originally sold or registered in salt-belt states (Recall 02V-101). The recall corrected a potential problem with insufficient clearance between the brake line and the dash panel insulator, which could cause wear and possibly failure of the brake lines. This investigation concerns vehicles that are outside the scope of Recall 02V-101.

*J. Quandt*  
 5-27-04  
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