



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 05-008
 Prompted By: RQ04-012
 Date Opened: 04/14/2005 Date Closed: 05/19/2006
 Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
 Subject: Tailgate Support Cables

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
 Products: General Motors 1998 - 2004 Sonoma and S-10
 Population: 1,449,202

Problem Description: When the tailgate is in the open (horizontal) position, one or both of the tailgate support cables can break causing the supported individual and/or cargo to drop to the ground without warning.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	192	1040	1219
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	23	28	45
# Injuries:	24	29	47
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	7911	7911

*Description of Other: GM warranty claims

Action: Close this Engineering Analysis. GM is conducting an owner notification program. See attached report for additional analysis details.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 05/19/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 05/19/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/19/2006

Summary: General Motors is conducting a "special policy" program for 903,464 owners of 2000 - 2003 model S/T vehicles through which owners may, at their option, either (1) periodically inspect the tailgate support cables installed in their vehicle and have the cables replaced if the cable coating exhibits any indications of damage or deterioration or (2) request that the tailgate support cables be replaced free of charge. GM will honor all requests by owners who opt for replacement without question regardless of the condition or appearance of the cables. GM has agreed to mail reminder notifications to owners every two years until the tailgate support cables have been replaced or until the vehicle is 12 years old.

ODI'S investigation indicates that a significant majority of the reported complaints (87%) and injuries (94%) have occurred in MY 2000 - 2003 S/T vehicles.

*FAK to LM
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TB Bowman
5/23/06*