



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-036
Date Opened: 06/29/2005 Date Closed: 11/07/2005
Principal Investigator: Chris Lash
Subject: Engine compartment fires

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 1999-2000 Dodge Stratus, Plymouth Breeze, Chrysler Cirrus
Population: 356,000

Problem Description: Engine compartment fire while driving or parked.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	37	170	207
Crashes/Fires:	37	167	204
Injury Incidents:	0	1	1
# Injuries:	0	1	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: This preliminary evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA05-019).

Engineer: Christopher Lash *CL*

Date: 11/07/2005

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 11/07/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/07/2005

Summary: On June 29, 2005, ODI opened Preliminary Evaluation (PE)05-036 to investigate complaints of engine compartment fires in model year (MY) 1999-2000 Chrysler Cirrus, Dodge Stratus and Plymouth Breeze passenger cars ("JA cars"). The JA cars were introduced in MY 1995 and ended with MY 2000. They were produced with 2.0L, 2.4L and 2.5L engines. The incident data in the failure report summary of this resume are for subject vehicle engine compartment fires for all causes.

According to DaimlerChrysler, evidence collected from field inspections of fire incident vehicles indicate that fluid leakage from the high pressure power steering hose is the most likely cause of the fires in the subject vehicles. The subject high pressure power steering hose is used in JA cars with both the 2.4L and 2.0L engines in MY 1995 through 2000. The fire incident rate in the MY 1999 through 2000 JA vehicles with 2.4L engines is significantly higher than in the prior model year vehicles using that engine and in any of the vehicles with the 2.0L or 2.5L engines. DaimlerChrysler is continuing its investigation of the issue and has provided periodic updates to ODI.

An Engineering Analysis (EA05-019) has been opened to further assess the scope and frequency of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

CL
11-8-05