



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-050
Date Opened: 09/13/2005
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Subject: Fuel tank punctures from road debris.

Manufacturer: Nissan North America, Inc.
Products: 2004 & 2005 Nissan Murano
Population: 124000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Consumers allege that the subject fuel tanks are susceptible to puncture from impact with road debris.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: A preliminary evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Derek L. Rinehardt DR 9/14/05
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI has received four consumer complaints of the fuel tanks being punctured by road debris during normal driving (non off-road conditions) in 2004 and 2005 model year Nissan Muranos. The result of each of the punctures has been fuel leakage at the puncture and subsequent need for fuel tank replacements.

Two of the consumers have reported punctures on the passenger side of the fuel tank. One consumer reported a puncture on the driver's side of the fuel tank. The fourth consumer reported multiple punctures. Three of the incidents occurred at highway speeds. The fourth incident occurred at approximately 15 mph while making a left turn.

A preliminary evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency, scope, and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

DR 9/14/05