



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-054
Date Opened: 09/27/2005
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Subject: Rear Coil Spring Fracture

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 2000 & 2001 Ford Taurus / Mercury Sable Sedans
Population: 467000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Consumers allege that rear coil springs are fracturing and in some instances puncturing the adjacent rear tires while driving.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	131	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 Rinehardt DR 9/28/05

Date: 09/27/2005

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 09/27/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/27/2005

Summary: ODI has received 131 VOQs of rear coil spring fractures in model year 2000 and 2001 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable sedans. Most of the complaints (123) originated from salt belt states (Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin).

Sixty-two of the complainants reported rear tire punctures as a result of adjacent rear coil spring fractures. Twenty six of the consumers have reported rear tire punctures at speeds in excess of 25 mph.

Some consumers have reported that there have been fractures of both rear coil springs. No warning signs have been noted prior to the rear coil spring fractures.

A Preliminary Evaluation is being opened to assess the frequency, scope and potential safety implications of the alleged defect.

DR 9/28/05