



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-059  
Date Opened: 11/07/2005  
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt  
Subject: Tire Valve Stem Failures

Manufacturer: Hyundai Motor Company  
Products: 2002 - 2003 Hyundai Sonata  
Population: 93000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Consumers are alleging that wheel cover rotation is causing tire valve stems to fail resulting in tire deflation.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	9	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 11/7/05*

Date: 11/07/2005

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 11/07/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/07/2005

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation has received nine (9) complaints alleging that wheel covers are rotating relative to the tire rim and subsequently causing tire valve stem failures.

The alleged occurrences have happened after a tire replacement and have resulted in unexpected tire deflation. Some of the reports allege rapid air loss while traveling at highway speeds. Several complaints also allege multiple tire valve stem failures.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences associated with the alleged defect.

*DR 11/7/05*