



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-029
Date Opened: 08/02/2006 Date Closed: 12/01/2006
Principal Investigator: Michael Lee
Subject: Unexpected Liftgate Closing

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor Corporation
Products: 2004-2005 Toyota Sienna
Population: 386,799

Problem Description: Failure of the gas-filled liftgate struts can result in unexpected closing of the liftgate.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	34	86	120
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	11	9	20
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	8,111	8,111

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for liftgate strut replacement.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA06-020).

Engineer: Michael Lee MJL
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/01/2006
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Summary: The liftgate gas struts for the subject vehicles may have damaged gas seals that allow the liftgate to drop unexpectedly. The rates for complaints, alleged injuries and warranty claims are higher for vehicles with the power liftgate option. The power liftgate may automatically power-close at the completion of a power-open command without input from the operator. Some owners are caught unaware of the power-close operation while under the rear liftgate door. ODI has upgraded the investigation to an Engineering Analysis (EA06-020) and modified the scope to include only the subject vehicles with the power liftgate option.