



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA06-010
Prompted By: PE06-009
Date Opened: 06/15/2006
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Fuel tank punctures

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2004 to 2006 Chrysler Pacifica
Population: 279,100 (estimated)

Problem Description: Fuel tanks may puncture from contact with road debris

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	14	17
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	130	131

*Description Of Other: field reports

Action: an Engineering Analysis has been opened

Engineer: Stephen McHenry *SMH*

Date: 06/15/2006

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 06/15/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/15/2006

Summary: On February 22, 2006 ODI opened PE06-009 to investigate reports that the fuel tanks on model year (MY) 2004 to 2005 Chrysler Pacifica vehicles may be punctured by contact with road debris. The number of reports submitted by Chrysler was significantly higher than those submitted by other manufacturers who were requested to submit data as part of investigation PE05-050 into MY 2003 to 2006 Nissan Murano vehicles that may have had insufficient shielding of the fuel tank to prevent punctures after contact with road debris. Nissan issued recall 06V-003 involving increasing the shielding of the fuel tanks to reduce the likelihood of tank punctures.

Chrysler has noted that they had in place from January 2003 to June 2005 a parts restriction program on Pacifica fuel tank replacements which may have made the number of reports artificially high in comparison to manufacturers which did not have a similar program in effect. Chrysler also questioned whether many of the field reports of fuel tanks replaced due to damage from unknown cause were actually punctured.

This investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis to gather additional information concerning the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

FAXED
6/19/06
SMH