



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 06-015
Prompted By: Recall 03V528, RQ 06-006 & Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 08/28/2006
Principal Investigator: Mark Swanson
Subject: Instrument panel fires

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2004-2005 Dodge Durango
Population: 244,609

Problem Description: Vehicles fires started from the driver side dash area while vehicles were being driven and parked.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8	117	125
Crashes/Fires:	8	30	38
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1103	1103

*Description Of Other: Warranty

Action: The Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Mark B. Swanson

Date: 08/28/2006

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper *TZC*

Date: 08/28/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/28/2006

Summary: This investigation originated from complaints received by the agency reporting instrument panel (IP) fires on vehicles that were recalled (recall 03V528) by DaimlerChrysler (DCC) to correct a defect that caused IP fires. The recall corrected a defect caused by a certain capacitor on the IP printed circuit board (PCB) that could crack and overheat. The fire could occur without warning while the vehicle is parked or in use. The recall remedy was to remove the capacitor from the IP. IPs used for vehicles produced after the recall (December 2003) did not contain the capacitor. ODI has also received reports of fires in vehicles produced after the recall, which do not have the defective capacitor. DCC and its supplier for the IP have identified a different location on the PCB that may overheat. This investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis to further study this issue.

TZC
8-28-06