



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-050  
Date Opened: 11/09/2006  
Principal Investigator: Andrea Noel  
Subject: Wheel Failure

Manufacturer: Nissan North America, Inc.  
Products: 2006 Nissan 350Z  
Population: 27,109 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Separation of wheel/tire assembly due to spoke breakage near the wheel hub.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	TBD	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	0
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	1
# Injuries:	1	TBD	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
# Fatalities:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	0	TBD	0

\*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Andrea Noel *A.N.*  
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received two consumer complaints alleging that an original equipment front five-spoke wheel separated without any warning with all five spokes breaking near the wheel hub. No vehicle crash occurred prior to, or after the wheel separation as a result of loss of control.

One of the complainants indicated that their wheel separation resulted in a traffic collision involving a law enforcement officer who was driving a motorcycle on the opposite side of the freeway. His motorcycle was struck by the separated wheel causing a crash and serious injury.

Wheel separation may result in loss of vehicle control. The separated wheel/tire could strike another vehicle or a pedestrian and is a road hazard.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the safety-related consequences and to determine the scope of the affected population.

*A.N.*  
*11/9/06*