



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-022
Date Opened: 04/19/2007
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Subject: Engine Compartment Fire

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke, BMW of North America, LLC
Products: MY 2002 - 2003 Mini Cooper
Population: 52,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Allegations of fire or smoke from the Electro-Hydraulic Power-Steering System.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Derek Rinehardt

DR

Date: 04/19/2007

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 04/19/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/19/2007

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 3 complaints of thermal failure of the Electro-Hydraulic Power-Steering System in model year (my) 2002 and 2003 Mini Cooper vehicles. One of the 3 complainants alleged a fire occurred. The other two complainants reported experiencing increased steering efforts and shortly thereafter, witnessed smoke coming from under the hood.

ODI has also reviewed Early Warning Reporting (EWR) data for the subject vehicles. The data suggests that additional fires may have occurred due to thermal failures of the Electro-Hydraulic Power Steering System.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency, scope and potential safety implications of the alleged defect.