ODI RESUME

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

Investigation: PE 08-035
Date Opened: 05/13/2008 Date Closed: 09/17/2008
Principal Investigator: Bruce York
Subject: Engine Compartment Fires

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: Ford Motor Co. MY 1995-2003 Windstar
Population: 1,643,432

Problem Description: Engine compartment fires, while parked and running.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	134	285	419
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	137	137

*Description of Other: Warranty claims.

Action: The Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA08-021).

Engineer: *Bruce York* Date: *09/17/2008*
Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd* Date: *09/17/2008*
Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter* Date: *09/17/2008*

Summary: ODI has received 134 consumer complaints, 285 manufacturer complaints, and 137 manufacturer warranty claims alleging incidents of engine compartment fire in Model Year (MY) 1995 thru 2003 Ford Windstar vehicles. Two of the ODI complaints allege the fires caused structural damage to the complainant's home.

Of the 134 ODI complaints, 36 allege the fire occurred while the vehicle was parked, 72 allege the fire occurred while the vehicle was running and 26 of the complaints do not specify if the vehicle was running or not.

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Further review of the ODI complaints shows that 72 allege that the Speed Control Deactivation Switch (SCDS) caused the fire and 10 allege that the SCDS leaked brake fluid on to the abs module resulting in the fire. There were 52 that did not identify a cause or that identified miscellaneous other causes.

ODI has also received 89 complaints (not counted in this resume) alleging that the SCDS developed a brake fluid leak. Thirteen of these complaints say that the leak at the SCDS resulted in braked fluid reaching the abs module.

This PE has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA) to further evaluate the cause of the fires and assess the scope, frequency, and safety consequences of the alleged defect.