



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA08-011
Prompted By: PE08-014
Date Opened: 07/01/2008
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Subject: Passenger Door Fire

Manufacturer: Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.
Products: 2001-2003 Mitsubishi Galant
Population: 292,945

Problem Description: A fire erupted in the front passenger door panel.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	23	27
Crashes/Fires:	4	23	27
Injury Incidents:	2	0	2
# Injuries:	2	0	2
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	9	9

*Description of Other: Warranty claims

Action: This Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Cynthia Glass *CG*
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/01/2008
Date: 07/01/2008
Date: 07/01/2008

Summary: Complaints allege that a fire erupted in the front passenger door. In Mitsubishi's response to ODI's March 12, 2008 information request sent under investigation PE08-014, Mitsubishi asserts that the alleged defect may occur when "large amounts of liquids, more than 100cc (3.4 oz), like a soft drink were spilled directly over the power window switch area, all at once and at one time."

Mitsubishi found that "as the liquid dries off, electrolytes and carbonized particles accumulate between the terminals" in the power window switch and "become a conductive material." As a result, "the switch may start to heat up and melt or ignite the plastic components." However, Mitsubishi also asserts that the alleged defect is "very rare" and that "burning damage will not occur unless liquids enter into the" power window switch.

ODI opened this Engineering Analysis to further evaluate the issue.