



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA08-018  
Date Opened: 08/28/2008  
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker  
Subject: Front Suspension Coil Spring Fracture

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company  
Products: 2002-2003 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable in salt belt states  
Population: 410,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Alleged front suspension coil spring fracture, which may result in tire puncture, loss of inflation pressure, and subsequent loss of vehicle control.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	355		
Crashes/Fires:	3		
Injury Incidents:	1		
# Injuries:	1		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description Of Other:

Action: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

Engineer: Kyle M. Bowker KMB

Date: 08/28/2008

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 08/28/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/28/2008

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 355 complaints from consumers residing in "salt belt" states that allege front suspension coil spring fracture in the subject vehicles. (Note: for purposes of this investigation, the "salt belt" includes Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin). Approximately 72% of the complainants allege the broken coil spring punctured the adjacent tire resulting in loss of inflation pressure. ODI is aware of 3 alleged crashes related to the alleged defect resulting in one person injured.

The subject vehicles are substantially similar to those previously investigated by ODI (PE02-080 and PE04-044) and recalled by Ford (NHTSA Recall No. 04V-332). An Engineering Analysis has been opened to assess the frequency, scope and safety consequences of the alleged defect.