



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

ODI RESUME

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

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: Ford Motor Co. MY 1995-2003 Windstar
Population: 1,708,381 (Estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	130	0	130
Crashes/Fires:	130	0	130
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Bruce York

Date: 05/13/2008

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 05/13/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/13/2008

Summary: ODI has received 130 complaints alleging incidents of engine compartment fire in Model Year (MY) 1995 thru 2003 Ford WINDSTAR vehicles. Thirty six of the incidents were reported to ODI within the last 12 months. Two of the complaints allege the fires caused structural damage to the complainant's home.

Of the 130 complaints, 33 allege the fire occurred while the vehicle was parked, 71 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 complaints shows that 65 allege that the Speed Control Deactivation Switch (SCDS) caused the fire and in four of those it is alleged that the SCDS leaked brake fluid on to the ABS module resulting in the fire. There were 56 that did not identify a cause and 9 that identified miscellaneous other causes.

ODI has also received 17 complaints (not counted in this resume) alleging that the SCDS developed a brake fluid leak. Seven of these complaints say that the leak at the SCDS resulted in brake fluid reaching the ABS module. In addition, ODI has received 5 complaints that allege the ABS module failed.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the cause of the fires and assess the scope, frequency, and safety consequences of the alleged defect.