



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-051
Date Opened: 08/28/2008
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker
Subject: Front Suspension Coil Spring Fracture

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp., Saab Cars USA, Inc.
Products: 2003-2004 Saab 9-3 in salt belt states
Population: 31,000 (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:	7		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation 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 7 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). Four of the seven complaints allege the broken coil spring punctured the adjacent tire resulting in loss of inflation pressure. Two complaints allege that both front suspension coil springs fractured and required replacement. No crashes or injuries have been reported.

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