



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-070
Date Opened: 12/09/2008
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Fracture of Steel Wheel Rim

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 2005 – 2006 Ford Expedition Special Service vehicles (SSV)
Population: 20,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: A fracture of the steel wheel rim which could allow for a rapid air loss possibly resulting in a loss of control and a crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	8		

*Description of Other: Total number of cracked wheels alleged in the complaints.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Stephen McHenry *SMH*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI has received three complaints alleging wheel fractures in model year (MY) 2005 and 2006 Ford Expedition Special Service vehicles (SSV) currently used in a law enforcement capacity. The complaints allege that some of the factory supplied steel wheel rims have developed fractures in the circumferential weld in the area of the rim where the outer tire bead seats. The cracks allegedly have resulted in tire air loss. ODI has also identified field reports related to the alleged defect in Early Warning information submitted by Ford. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the scope, frequency, and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.