



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-017
Date Opened: 03/10/2009
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Fuel line leak

Date Closed: 07/02/2009

Manufacturer: Subaru of America, Inc.
Products: 2002 – 2004 Subaru Impreza WRX & STI vehicles.
Population: 76,142

Problem Description: Fuel link leakage in the engine compartment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	266	728	994
Crashes/Fires:	0	1	1
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	487	487

*Description of Other: Regular Warranty Claims related to issue.

Action: Upgrade this Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Peter Ong *PO*
Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon *DSY*
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: Complainants report fuel leakage most frequently in winter during initial cold engine startup. Owners will either notice a fuel odor inside the occupant compartment or fuel odor/leakage at the fuel lines on the right side atop the engine. Once the engine has warmed, the odor/leakage may cease.

Subaru revised the fuel pipe/hose design for model year (MY) 2003-04 WRX vehicles produced after August 2003. Subaru also introduced a MY 2004 Impreza STI vehicle with a different engine and fuel pipe/hose layout.

Out of the total of 994 complaints, 944 concern MY 2002-03 WRX vehicles built through August 2003. Subaru also reports one fire on a MY 2002 WRX vehicle that occurred in February 2006.

In March 2009, ODI inspected and video taped a MY 2002 WRX vehicle with a fuel leak during cold engine start up. The video was provided to Subaru and is in the investigation file.

This investigation is being upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA09-011) to further study this issue.