



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-046
Date Opened: 09/24/2009
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Inadvertent Airbag Deployment

Date Closed: 01/19/2010

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: 2005 Ford F-150
Population: 528,021

Problem Description: Driver frontal airbag deployed during ignition start or shortly afterwards.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8	222	230
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
Injury Incidents:	6	50	56
Fatality Incidents:	6	50	56
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0
	0	58	58

* Description of Other: 58 Related warranty claims were included in the complaint counts.

Action: Upgrade this PE to an Engineering Analysis (EA10-001).

Engineer: Peter C. Ong *peo*

Date: 01/19/2010

Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon

Date: 01/19/2010

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/19/2010

Summary:

Ford reports that the inadvertent airbag deployments are most likely caused by the airbag horn mounting plate's sharp metal edge that eventually can chafe/cut the airbag clockspring jumper wire leading to a short-to-ground condition. One hundred eighty two (182) of the 230 reports were for airbag deployments resulting in 56 injuries with remaining 48 reports for an airbag light illumination condition. Injuries include abrasion, contusion and cuts to the arm/hand/face and/or upper body regions. One owner reported a broken tooth and two owners reported being knocked unconscious as a result of the airbag deployment. In addition, MY 2004 and MY 2006 F-150 vehicles also contain the same design that resulted in an additional 89 reports with 37 airbag deployments and nine injuries.

Ford made an interim design change to the horn mounting plate in January 2006 and then major changes to the horn mounting plate, airbag module and clockspring jumper wire designs in June 2006 for the MY 2007 vehicles.

This Preliminary Evaluation is upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA10-001) to include MY 2004-2006 F-150 vehicles and to further evaluate the condition.