

**Howell, Rosa (NHTSA)**

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**From:** Demeter, Kathleen (NHTSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2010 1:58 PM  
**To:** Hershman, Larry (NHTSA); Yon, Scott (NHTSA)  
**Cc:** Magno, Gregory (NHTSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Accident involving Jeep Grand Cherokee

[Larry, please add to your petition file.](#)

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**From:** Clarence Ditlow [mailto:cmdiii@autosafety.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 06, 2010 1:49 PM  
**To:** Demeter, Kathleen (NHTSA)  
**Cc:** Yon, Scott (NHTSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Accident involving Jeep Grand Cherokee

**This should be FARS case 370211 in North Carolina in 2002, not 2001. Please note that we are in the process of submitting additional information to the agency. We have uncovered information that indicates a defectively designed filler neck contributes to fatal fire crashes in crash modes beyond rear impacts.**

Clarence Ditlow  
 Executive Director  
 Center for Auto Safety  
 1825 Connecticut Ave NW  
 Washington DC 20009

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**From:** R Reynolds [mailto:the911pamperedchef@yahoo.com]  
**To:** steve.daniels@abc11mail.co  
**Subject:** Accident involving Jeep Grand Cherokee

Dear Mr Daniels,

I want to thank you for the story you did on the Jeep Grand Cherokee and problems with the gas tank. I wanted to share with you a story that you may not be aware of with that type of vehicle that occurred in NC.

On March 9, 2001 my sister-in-law, two nieces, and two of their friends were struck by a drunk driver in a HEAD ON collision of 64 Bypass in Nash County. On impact the 1997 Jeep they were traveling in exploded. The woman who hit them and her 12 yr old son were killed. My 7 year old niece who was in the back seat suffered a massive head injury and 3rd degree burns to her legs. Her 7 yr old friend(also in the back seat)suffered 3rd degree burns to 80% of her body, and a 12 yr old little girl (also in back) suffered a broken back and a ruptured spleen. My 12 yr old niece in the front passenger seat suffered minor burns and a minor head injury, and my sister-in-law (the driver) escaped without injury. My 7 yr old neice spent 1 month in a coma at UNC hospital, 1 month in the Jaycee Burn Center, and another month in rehab at Pitt learning how to walk and talk again. These little girls nearly lost there lives beacuse they were trapped in the burning vehicle. Had it not been for the heroic efforts of an off duty Johnston County deputy, his brother, and several other individuals they would have died.

I know you said that these vehicles were exploding from rear end collisions, but in this case it was a head on collision that cuased the gas tank to rupture and explode. When my brother and his wife looked into a possible law suit against Chrysler right after the accident in 2001 they were told there was not sufficient evidence to prove a default in the vehicle. Now that this has all come to light they still can not file law suit because of Chrysler's recent bankruptcy. I

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think this a shame! These little girls will live with the scars from that wreck for the rest of their lives and never receive any compensation from Chrysler from their defective vehicle.

I just wanted to share this with you so that you would know that it is not just rear end collisions that have caused these tanks to rupture on these vehicles. Thanks so much for shedding light on this story regarding these faulty vehicles! Keep up the good work!!!

Sincerely,

Robyn Reynolds  
Spring Hope, NC

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