

Howell, Rosa (NHTSA)

From: Hershman, Larry (NHTSA)
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 11:18 AM
To: Howell, Rosa (NHTSA)
Cc: Reid, Randy (NHTSA); Yon, Scott (NHTSA)
Subject: FW: 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee Rear End Fire Crash Today, March 1, 2011

Rosa – Please place this in the files for DP09005 and PE10032.
Thanks.

From: Clarence Ditlow [<mailto:cmdiii@autosafety.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:33 PM
To: Boyd, Richard (NHTSA); Borris, Frank (NHTSA); Medford, Ronald (NHTSA); Smith, Daniel (NHTSA)
Cc: Hershman, Larry (NHTSA); Yon, Scott (NHTSA); Michael Brooks
Subject: 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee Rear End Fire Crash Today, March 1, 2011

This is a classic rear impact such as was shown by the first of four planned crash tests at FHWA before the series was canceled after the first crash test resulted in a catastrophic failure. Please place this email in the investigatory file of PE 10-032 and investigate this crash.

Clarence Ditlow
Center for Auto Safety

((STEVE))

TONIGHT -- A 'YOUNG WOMAN' IS CHARGED WITH CAUSING A FOUR-VEHICLE WRECK -- THAT ENDED IN A 'BALL OF FIRE' ON THE 'DURHAM FREEWAY'.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE 'D-O-T CAM' VIEW -- AS A 1995 'JEEP CHEROKEE' - - WAS 'BURNING OUT OF CONTROL' - IN THE SOUTHBOUND LANES OF THE FREEWAY -- AT THE 'ALEXANDER DRIVE' EXIT.

OUR CREW ON THE 'GROUND' -- SHOWS THE AFTERMATH.

THE HIGHWAY PATROL SAYS -- 'LAKEISHA ROBERTS' WAS DRIVING THE RED SATURN -- AND CRASHED INTO THE JEEP -- PUNCTURING THE FUEL TANK -- WHICH IS BEHIND THE REAR-AXLE.

THREE OF THE FOUR CARS INVOLVED -- CAUGHT FIRE.

'TWO' PEOPLE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL.

WE ALSO SENT CHOPPER 11 H-D -- TO SHOW THE MAJOR BACK-UPS -- IN BOTH THE NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND LANES OF THE DURHAM FREEWAY - DURING RUSH HOUR.

((STEVE/POD/TBS))

THIS ISSUE -- MAY SOUND FAMILIAR.

THE I-TEAM -- BROKE THE STORY 'NATIONALLY' -- ABOUT CONCERNS FOCUSED ON 'DEFECTIVE GAS TANKS' -- IN 'JEEP *GRAND* CHEROKEES' - BUILT BETWEEN '1993 AND 2004'.

THE 'NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION' - IS CONDUCTING AN 'INVESTIGATION' -- THAT COULD LEAD TO A 'RECALL'.

'OUR' INVESTIGATION EXPOSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE REAR-MOUNTED FUEL TANK - AND DEADLY FIRES.

WE BROUGHT YOU THE STORY OF SUSAN KLINE -- A MOTHER OF TWO - WHO WAS KILLED -- WHEN HER 1996 GRAND CHEROKEE WAS REAR-ENDED AND BURST INTO FLAMES.

NOW, A 'PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION' -- BY 'NHTSA' WILL DETERMINE WHETHER A 'RECALL' -- OF THE POPULAR S-U-V IS NECESSARY.

CHRYSLER SAYS:

IT IS COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATION AND THAT THE GRAND CHEROKEE HAS AN EXCELLENT SAFETY RECORD.

IT MOVED THE TANK'S POSITION AFTER THE 2004 MODEL.

((STEVE/POD/TBS))

RIGHT NOW, THERE ARE THREE-MILLION OF THE AFFECTED MODELS -- ON THE ROAD -- ACROSS THE COUNTRY.