



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-020
Prompted By: Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 4/21/2009
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Subject: Vehicle Rollaway Allegations

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: MY 2002 through 2005 Ford Explorer / Mercury Mountaineer
Population: 1,400,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Consumers are alleging unintended vehicle movement after the transmission is shifted to park. Additionally, other consumers are alleging failure of the gearshift lever mechanism.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	11		
Crashes/Fires:	8		
Injury Incidents:	4		
# Injuries:	4		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	61		

*Description of Other: Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQS) alleging failure of the gearshift position lever mechanism.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Derek Rinehardt DR
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/21/2009

Date: 04/21/2009

Date: 04/21/2009

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation has received 11 complaints alleging vehicle rollaways after the complainant shifted the vehicle into park. Eight of the complaints allege a crash occurred as a result of the rollaway incident. Four complainants allege injuries after being struck by the vehicle during the rollaway incident.

In addition to the 11 complainants alleging vehicle rollaway incidents, 61 complainants have also alleged failure of gear shift lever mechanism while shifting from or to the park position.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and potential safety consequences of the alleged defect and any relationship of the alleged gearshift lever mechanism failures to the alleged vehicle rollaway incidents.