



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-025
Date Opened: 05/13/2009
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Subject: Power Steering Fluid Leaks - Fires

Manufacturer: General Motors Corporation
Products: MY 2006 Impala/Monte Carlo and MY 2005-06 Pontiac Grand Prix
Population: 500,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: The power steering return hose or clamp may experience pressures that exceed its strength causing a fluid leak. Consumers have alleged these fluid leaks have caused fires in two cases and difficulty in steering in other cases.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	33		
Crashes/Fires:	2		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

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

Date: 05/13/2009
Date: 05/13/2009 *JL 5/15*
Date: 05/13/2009

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 33 Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQS) from consumers alleging power steering fluid leaks in model year (MY) 2005 through 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix and MY 2006 Chevrolet Impala and Monte Carlo vehicles. Two of the consumers allege engine compartment fires occurred as a result of the power steering fluid leaks. Other consumers allege a loss of power steering assist or a loss of power steering fluid.

General Motors began a Customer Satisfaction Program (Bulletin no. 06072) in October of 2006, affecting MY 2006 Chevrolet Monte Carlo and Impala (equipped with V6 or V8 engines) and MY 2005-2006 Grand Prix vehicles (equipped with V8 engines) to address a power steering fluid leak condition created by higher pressures generated in the power steering return hose when the engine is started in cold temperatures. The program, which ended in October 2007, included consumers in AK, ME, MN, MT, NH, ND, SD, VT, WI, and WY. Only 1 of the 33 VOQS received by ODI is from a state covered by the customer satisfaction campaign.

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A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency, scope and potential safety consequences of the alleged defect and whether a safety recall is an appropriate remedy.