



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

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company  
Products: 2005 Ford F-150  
Population: 530,000 (estimated)

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

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

|                     | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints:         | 8   |              |       |
| Crashes/Fires:      | 1   |              |       |
| Injury Incidents:   | 5   |              |       |
| # Injuries:         | 5   |              |       |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0   |              |       |
| # Fatalities:       | 0   |              |       |
| Other:              | 0   |              |       |

Description of Other: EWR Field Reports

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Engineer: Peter C. Ong

Date: 09/24/2009

Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon

Date: 09/24/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/24/2009

### Summary:

ODI has received eight consumer complaints from owners of 2005 Ford F-150 pickup vehicles alleging that the driver airbag deployed during ignition start or seconds after the engine had started. Five of the eight complainants allegedly suffered injuries from the inadvertent airbag deployment. One complainant (VOQ 10231591) stated that shortly after starting the vehicle, when she placed the vehicle in reverse, the air bag deployed. Believing that the vehicle was on fire, she then jump out of the vehicle (while still in reverse) and the rear of the vehicle crashed into some landscape bushes resulting in over \$3,000 in vehicle damage. Other injuries ranged from bruised chest and neck to skin abrasion to the arm region. A servicing technician told some owners that the cause of the airbag deployment was due to a wire chaffing issue. Inadvertent deployment can lead to loss of vehicle control and/or injuries.