



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 10-004
Prompted by: Consumer Petition
Date Opened: 11/18/2010
Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Approver: Richard Boyd
Reviewer: Jeff Quandt
Subject: Braking Performance, Hybrid Vehicle

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)
Products:	Model Year 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid Vehicles
Population:	25,000
Problem Description:	Petition request for ODI to conduct a defect investigation for alleged brake failures in MY 2005 Honda Accord and Honda Civic Hybrid vehicles.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	4	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	1	TBD	TBD
Other*:	22	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:** Complaints of Honda Accord / Civic Hybrids identified by the petitioner having similar brake issues.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: The petition will be evaluated for a grant or deny decision.

Summary:

A defect petition letter was received by the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) requesting a formal investigation and recall of MY 2005 Honda Accord Hybrid vehicles for a possible safety defect related to braking performance.

The petitioner (with assistance from another consumer due to her injuries) filed a complaint with ODI under Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) 10329383. In the complaint the petitioner described being involved in a crash on July 23, 2005 while driving a subject vehicle. Summarily, the complaint alleges while traversing rumble strips along side of the highway and simultaneously attempting to the brake, the brakes were ineffective and the vehicle began to accelerate uncontrollably. This began a chain of events where the vehicle eventually crossed over into traffic flowing in the opposite direction. The end result was the death of her passenger and injuries to the occupants of two other vehicles. The petitioner also alleges the crash left her disabled.

Subsequent to the incident on July 23, 2005, the petitioner did a search of ODI's complaint database and identified 22 additional complaints involving other Honda Accord Hybrid and Honda Civic Hybrid vehicles that the petitioner felt represented similar incidents where the braking performance was inadequate under conditions of braking while driving over uneven road surfaces.

ODI will evaluate the petition for a grant or deny decision.