



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-024
Date Opened: 07/19/2010
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Rear Hatch Strut Support Failure
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: CHRYSLER GROUP LLC
Products: MY 2005 Dodge Magnum
Population: 79,411

Problem Description: The rear hatch can close without warning due to failure of the support struts

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7	0	7
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Number of Injuries:	8	0	8
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is opened.

Summary:

ODI has received 7 complaints on the 2005 Dodge Magnum alleging that the opened rear hatch closes without warning during normal use due to failure of the support struts. Early Warning Field Reports were also identified which pertained to the lift gate requiring assistance to stay opened.

The complaint incident dates indicate that the subject strut failure rate is increasing and that most of the failures have occurred during the cold season when strut pressure is reduced. The support struts lose their internal gas pressure and allow the rear hatch to inadvertently close on the consumer.

There are no similar complaints for model year 2006 Dodge Magnams. An investigation is warranted to understand the scope and severity of this problem.