U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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Investigation: PE 10-027
Date Opened: 07/26/2010
Investigator: Cynthia Glass **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Christina Morgan
Subject: Engine Compartment Fire

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: VOLKSWAGEN OF AMERICA, INC
Products: 2002-2003 Volkswagen Passat
Population: 198,873 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Complainants report an engine compartment fire that may be related to an ignition coil failure.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	10	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	6	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:** Reports of an ignition coil failure that did not result in a fire.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

ODI has received 10 complaints and some additional field reports alleging that a fire started in the engine compartment of the vehicle. Some reports allege that the fire may be related to faulty ignition coils, and some drivers reported seeing the check engine or other dashboard lights illuminate prior to the fire event.

ODI has also received 6 complaints of ignition coil failures that did not result in a fire. Reports state that prior to or during the ignition coil failure, the vehicle hesitated or lost power, and the check engine or dashboard lights illuminated. The vehicles were repaired by replacing the failed ignition coil(s).

Some of the 16 complaints indicated that the ignition coils failed and were replaced more than once.