



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-036
Date Opened: 09/07/2010
Investigator: Lawrence Hershman **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Fuel Tank Strap Corrosion/Rust

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Products: 1997-2001 Ford F-150
Population: 1,400,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The fuel tank can drop when one or both of the straps supporting the fuel tank rust and break. This presents a fire hazard from leaking gasoline as well as an obstruction hazard to vehicles following the subject trucks.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	32	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Investigation.

Summary:

ODI has received 32 complaints alleging corrosion of the straps supporting the fuel tank. In all but four of the complaints, either one or both straps broke allowing the tank to drop from the frame and either drag along the ground or completely detach from the vehicle. In six of the complaints, fuel spilled when the tank dropped or detached. There have been no fires or injuries alleged in these incidents.