



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 10-045  
**Date Opened:** 11/04/2010  
**Investigator:** Robert Young  
**Approver:** Richard Boyd  
**Subject:** Fuel Tank Leak  
**Reviewer:** Bruce York-B

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** DUCATI NORTH AMERICA  
**Products:** 2004-2007 Multistrada & Monster  
**Population:** 2,247 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Composite (non-metallic) fuel tank deforms compromising fuel pump/tank seal.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	13	TBD	13
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	3	TBD	3

\*Description of Other: Considerable discussion of "deforming tank" issue on the web.

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open PE and send IR to Ducati

### Summary:

Ducati is using a composite material in constructing fuel tanks on some motorcycle models. In some instances (the Sport Classic series, for example) the tank simply deforms but does not leak. However, leaks have been alleged in the subject fuel tanks when tank deformation compromises the o-ring seal between the tank and fuel pump. Some owners report a pooling of fuel below the bike and/or on the engine when this occurs.

Web forums, too, are rife with related postings. Most owners suspect the tank material is not compatible with the ethanol found in today's highway vehicle gasoline.

To learn more about this issue, ODI is conducting this Preliminary Evaluation.