



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 11-011  
**Date Opened:** 04/07/2011  
**Investigator:** Derek Rinehardt  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Front suspension control arm failure  
**Date Closed:** 09/23/2011  
**Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** GENERAL MOTORS LLC, SUBARU OF AMERICA, INC.  
**Products:** MY 2002-07 Impreza, 2003-08 Forester, and 2005-06 Saab 9-2X  
**Population:** 300,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** The left or right front lower control arm may fail due to excessive corrosion. A lower control arm failure may result in a loss of vehicle control.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	11	18	26**
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	0	6	6

\***Description of Other:** Warranty claims of front lower control arm replacements due to corrosion.

\*\* Count indicates duplicate reports received by ODI and manufacturer.

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed. Recall 11V-464 (Subaru Recall Number WVX-34).

### Summary:

On September 6, 2011, Fuji Heavy Industries USA, Inc, on behalf of Subaru of America, Inc notified the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) it would be conducting a safety recall of certain model year (MY) 2002 through 2007 Subaru Impreza, MY 2003 through 2008 Subaru Forester, and MY 2005 through 2006 Saab 9-2X vehicles originally sold or currently registered in one the "salt belt" states including the District of Columbia (DC). For the purpose of this investigation, "salt belt" states include Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and DC.

ODI's analysis of consumer complaint data identified 11 reports alleging failure of either the right or left lower control arm due to excessive corrosion. All of these complaints were associated with vehicles currently registered or originally sold in a "salt belt" state.

Through a similar analysis of complaint and warranty data submitted to ODI by Subaru, ODI identified 18 consumer complaints and 6 warranty claims associated with failure of the left or right front lower control arm due to excessive corrosion. All of these consumer complaints associated with vehicles either currently registered or originally sold in a "salt belt" state.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed.