U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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Investigation: PE 11-034
Date Opened: 09/23/2011
Investigator: Michael Lee **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Unexpected Closing of Power Liftgate

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)
Products: 2009 Honda Odyssey (Touring and EX-L models)
Population: 20,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: When in the open position, the powered rear liftgate can unexpectedly drop and power-close (close under power).

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	2	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	2	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Summary:

ODI has received seven complaints alleging unexpected closing of the vehicle's liftgate on model year 2009 Honda Odyssey vehicles equipped with a powered rear liftgate system (Odyssey Touring and EX-L models). The complaints indicate that the gas-filled liftgate struts failed and were unable to support the liftgate when it was in the open position. Two of the seven complaints reported injuries due to consumers being struck by the closing liftgate. ODI notes that there are no similar complaints on model year 2008 and 2010 Honda Odyssey vehicles equipped with power liftgates.

An investigation has been opened to evaluate the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.