



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 11-035  
**Date Opened:** 09/23/2011  
**Investigator:** Peter Ong  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Inadvertent Air Bag Deployment  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** CHRYSLER GROUP LLC  
**Products:** 2002-2003 Jeep Liberty  
**Population:** 387,356 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** The driver and/or passenger frontal air bags inadvertently deploy (without a crash) while the vehicle was in operation.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	7	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	5	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	5	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	32	TBD	TBD

\*Description of Other: Manufacturer reports

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open this Preliminary Evaluation

### Summary:

ODI has received seven consumer complaints on model year 2002-2003 Jeep Liberty vehicles including four owners alleging that the driver frontal air bag deployed without a crash and three owners alleging that both the driver and passenger frontal air bags suddenly deployed without a crash. Five of the seven complaints alleged an injury incident totaling five injuries. Six of the seven owners stated that their vehicle was being operated on a residential roadway with three alleging that they were travelling on a highway at speeds of 45 mph or greater when the air bag(s) deployed. Some owners noted that the air bag light had been illuminated, or had intermittently illuminated prior to the deployment.

In addition, ODI has received 32 early warning field reports involving 10 injury incidents totaling 10 injuries. The field reports indicated that inspections of the vehicles did not reveal any evidence of exterior vehicle impacts or damage that could have reasonably caused the air bags to deploy.

A preliminary evaluation has been opened to investigate the alleged defect.