

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

# **ODI RESUME**

Investigation: PE 11-039

Date Opened: 12/21/2011

Investigator: Michael Lee Reviewer: Scott Yon

**Approver:** Frank Borris

**Subject:** Corrosion of the Third-Row Seat Mounting

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

**Products:** 2004 Ford Freestar and Mercury Monterey (salt-belt states)

**Population:** 63,000 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** Corroded rear wheel wells can compromise the strength of the anchor mounts for the

third-row stowable seat mechanism.

### **FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY**

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	TBD	TBD
*Description of Others			

#### \*Description of Other:

## **ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION**

**Action:** Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

#### **Summary:**

The stowable third-row seat is secured to the vehicle by two latches or anchors on each side of the seat cushion and also by two hinges/supports on the rear face of the seat cushion. The side anchors are mounted to the rear wheel wells. ODI has received seven complaints on model year 2004 Ford Freestar and Mercury Monterey vehicles which were in use in salt-belt states. The complaints allege that the rear wheel wells were severely corroded with some complaints indicating that an anchor mount completely detached from the vehicle.

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

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