



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 11-040  
**Date Opened:** 12/14/2011  
**Investigator:** Emily Reichard  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Corrosion of the Fuel Filler Pipe  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

### MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** GENERAL MOTORS LLC  
**Products:** 2003 Chevrolet Express  
**Population:** 17,165 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** The fuel filler pipe may corrode and leak fuel, which poses a fire hazard.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	5	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	0	TBD	TBD

**\*Description of Other:**

### ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

**Summary:**

NHTSA has received five complaints alleging fuel leakage while refueling on model year 2003 Chevrolet Express vans (subject vehicles) equipped with a left hand door(s) behind the driver's door. Fuel leakage in the presence of an ignition source may result in a fire. All five complaints originate from salt belt states.

In the subject vehicles the fuel filler pipe is located farther back/rearward than on vans not equipped with a left side passenger door. As a result the filler pipe routes through the rear wheel well which exposes the filler pipe to road debris and water kick up (spray) by the rear tire. According to some complaints, the debris and water collects between the fuel filler pipe and a protective tubing that covers it, which causes the pipe to corrode and leak fuel. One of the complainants indicated that the plastic tubing on a service replacement filler pipe has a slit that may minimize debris and water collection.

ODI is opening this preliminary evaluation to evaluate the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.