



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 12-020  
**Date Opened:** 07/19/2012  
**Investigator:** Kareem Habib **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Power steering hose failure

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** CHRYSLER GROUP LLC  
**Products:** MY 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
**Population:** 106,803 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** The power steering return hose may fail, resulting in power steering fluid leakage in the engine compartment. Power steering fluid may be ignited by hot surfaces.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	1	TBD	1
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	2	TBD	2

\*Description of Other: Engine compartment fire while driving, cause unknown

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received one complaint of a power steering return hose failure in a model year 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicle. ODI has identified additional incidents of power steering hose failure in the subject vehicles in field reports submitted by Chrysler in its Early Warning Reporting submissions. Power steering fluid may be ignited by hot surfaces in the engine compartment.

ODI has also received two reports alleging engine compartment fires while driving in the subject vehicles. Both complaints were received within the last month and allege severe fires resulting in total vehicle loss with the cause as yet undetermined. One of the complaints reported fluid dripping beneath the vehicle during the incident.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the cause, scope and frequency of the alleged defect.

The ODI reports cited above can be viewed at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints) under the following identification numbers (ODI Nos.): 10465379, 10461736, 10459178.