



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 12-021
Date Opened: 07/19/2012
Investigator: Kerrin Bressant
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Rear differential failure
Reviewer: Jeff Quandt

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: CHRYSLER GROUP LLC
Products: 2009-2010 Dodge Ram 1500
Population: 230,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The rear differential may fail, resulting in rear wheel lock-up and loss of vehicle control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	12	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	3	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other: Non-crash loss of control incidents (e.g., spin, skid, yaw).

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation has received 12 complaints alleging rear differential failures resulting in rear wheel lock-up in model year (MY) 2009 through 2010 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup trucks. The complaints allege failures at various speeds with eight of the incidents reporting failures at speeds of 35 mph or greater. Four of the complaints involving higher speed incidents allege that the failure resulted in a loss of control (e.g., vehicle spin, skid or yaw), including one resulting in a crash into a concrete barrier. One complaint reports that the failure was caused by loosening of the rear differential pinion nut. Most of the complaints allege that the failure resulted in drive shaft failure including one that reported the detached shaft end punctured the fuel tank.

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