



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 13-027
Date Opened: 08/19/2013
Investigator: Evan Frings
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Headliner Fires

Date Closed: 01/14/2014
Reviewer: Scott Yon

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Chrysler Group LLC
Products: 2011-2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Durango
Population: 593,299

Problem Description: A headliner fire may ignite near either one of the vehicle's sun visors due to an electrical shorting condition.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	40	41**
Crashes/Fires:	5	37	38**
Injury Incidents:	0	3	3
Number of Injuries:	0	3	3
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	37	37

*Description of Other: Warranty incidents reported by Chrysler as of September 2013.

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to EA14-001.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has identified 5 reports of vehicle headliners catching fire at the front of the vehicle near the sun visors on Jeep Grand Cherokees. Customers reported a range of fire conditions ranging from minor overheating to an open flame at the headliner and/or sun visor material while driving the vehicle. In some reports the fire spread to the front seats and/or door panels of the vehicle. In one report, the sunroof was damaged causing the glass to shatter.

The cause of these fires is an electrical short in the vanity lighting wiring circuit that is routed to either one of the sun visors. The sun visors are mounted to the roof of the vehicle through the headliner with three screws. The sun visor wiring may be penetrated, or pierced by one of these screws either during initial vehicle assembly or subsequent headliner area repairs. The piercing causes an electrical short that could result in a fire. There is no dedicated fuse for the affected circuit so the electrical short can continue until the short clears or the vehicle is keyed off. The Dodge Durango uses the same headliner assembly, and Chrysler indicates there are similar headliner fire incidents affecting this model. Therefore, these vehicles have been added to the scope of the investigation.

Analyzing the data received from Chrysler along with ODI reports indicates there may be a total of 52 unique fire incidents (including 3 injury allegations) on Grand Cherokee and Durango vehicles which ODI will continue to evaluate during the investigation.

Based on ODI's evaluation of currently available data, this investigation is being upgraded to Engineering Analysis

EA14-001.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues> under the following identification (ODI) numbers: 10536895, 10556110, 10522665, 10522159, 10515592