



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 13-034  
**Date Opened:** 10/21/2013  
**Investigator:** Evan Frings  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Jeep Liberty Door Fires

**Date Closed:** 03/09/2014  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

### MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Chrysler Group LLC  
**Products:** MY 2012 Jeep Liberty  
**Population:** 104,593

**Problem Description:** Driver's side door catches fire during driving or while parked due to PMWS failure.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	1	1	1**
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	1	1	1**
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	1	1	1**
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	1	1	1**
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	2	263	265
<b>*Description of Other:</b> ODI: VOQ reports which may relate to the alleged defect on other Chrysler vehicles that use the subject PMWS. Manufacturer: Warranty claims for subject vehicle PMWS replacements.			

\*\* Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

### ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Close this Preliminary Evaluation.

**Summary:**

The driver's side power master window switch (PMWS) evaluated during this investigation controls the power windows for all four doors, the power mirrors and door locks. The PMWS is located on the driver's side door panel. Chrysler advised that the PMWS was used on multiple vehicle platforms including model year (MY) 2011 Dodge Nitro, MY 2011-2012 Jeep Liberty and MY 2011 Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Caravan for a total of approximately 425,000 vehicles. At the opening of the investigation, ODI identified two reports of fire near the vicinity of the PMWS on MY 2012 Jeep Liberty Vehicles. During the course of the investigation, ODI determined that one of the complaint fires was not likely caused by a PMWS failure as available evidence indicated the fire started in the dashboard as opposed to the door panel area. Accordingly, the report was removed from the above counts. In response to ODI's October 30, 2013 information request (IR) letter, Chrysler advised that it was only aware of the same two fire reports as ODI and that it had concluded one of the reports did not involve a PMWS failure. ODI has not identified any new subject vehicle reports involving PMWS fires during the course of the investigation.

In addition to the reports alleging fire, ODI evaluated other reports and data related to PMWS failures including consumer complaints, field reports, law suits, and warranty claims provided by Chrysler in its response. ODI interviewed owners of complaint vehicles when additional information was required. In addition to the subject Jeep Liberty, ODI reports for the additional Chrysler vehicles that use the same PMWS were also reviewed. ODI identified two additional ODI complaints (see ODI 10523317 and 10474901) involving Chrysler minivans that alleged door fires that were, or may have been related to a PMWS failure. In discussions with ODI, Chrysler stated that it conducted a

search for consumer complaints alleging PMWS related door fires on the additional vehicles that use the same PMWS but did not identify any responsive reports.

Based on ODI's assessment of available data, the overall failure rate for the PMWS, which was used in a large population of vehicles, appears to be low, and the failure rate for those that resulted in fires is even lower. Additionally the data does not indicate a trend, climatic, or regional effects indicative of an actionable defect issue. A safety-related defect trend has not been identified at this time and further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. Accordingly, the investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will monitor the issue and reserves the right to take future action if warranted by the circumstances.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed online at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> under the following identification numbers: 10459029