



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 14-019  
**Date Opened:** 06/24/2014  
**Investigator:** Stephen Mchenry      **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Rear Differential Failure

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Chrysler Group LLC  
**Products:** MY 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 trucks  
**Population:** 260,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Consumers report incidents of rear axle lock-up or drive shaft detachment from the rear differential caused by loose pinion nuts.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	15	TBD	TBD
<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

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

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

**Summary:**

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 15 complaints alleging that the rear differential locked up or the driveshaft separated at the rear connection to the differential in model year 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 pickups. The reports indicate that there was little or no noise or other warning prior to the lock-up and/or separation. Seven incidents occurred at speeds of 50 mph or greater and 2 allege that the rear axle lockup caused the truck to go into a spin (VOQs 10502707 and 10499587).

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

The VOQs associated with the opening of this investigation are: 10595057, 10563747, 10551216, 10533970, 10512746, 10508477, 10507139, 10503157, 10502707, 10502402, 10499587, 10487800, 10479516, 10446068, 10446048.