



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-012
Date Opened: 04/10/2015
Investigator: John Abbott **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Otto Matheke
Subject: Passenger Front Air Bag Suppression

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Subaru of America, Inc.
Products: 2012 Subaru Impreza
Population: 33,500 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The passenger frontal air bag can become suppressed (turned off) when the passenger seat is occupied.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	26	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation has received 26 Vehicle Owner Questionnaire reports involving the passenger frontal air bag in MY 2012 Subaru Impreza vehicles. These vehicles use a capacitive type Occupant Detection System, which is intended to classify the occupant of the passenger seat as either full sized, small stature, a child seat or other object. The reports allege that the Occupant Detection System, failed to operate properly and incorrectly suppressed (turned off) the front passenger air bag when the seat was occupied. In a frontal crash sufficient to warrant deployment, a suppressed air bag may increase the risk of injury to the occupant of the seat.

Additionally, ODI notes that Subaru published a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) No. 17-16-12 on May 29, 2012 to address conditions with the Occupant Detection System that can lead to suppression of the passenger air bag when the passenger seat is occupied.

ODI is opening this this investigation to assess the scope, frequency, and consequence of incorrect air bag suppression and any connection that may exists to the TSB.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues> under the following (ODI) identification numbers: 10672345, 10668512, 10668243, 10662987, 10641835, 10640574, 10626384, 10622234, 10621456, 10619273, 10605789, 10604506, 10575908, 10559081, 10557856, 10556661, 10545059, 10538562, 10532118, 10481308, 10478660, 10473662, 10472608, 10470865, 10468157, 10463432.