



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 16-008  
**Date Opened:** 07/01/2016  
**Investigator:** Brian Smith  
**Approver:** Stephen Ridella  
**Subject:** Ford Explorer Exhaust Odor  
**Date Closed:** 09/12/2017  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Ford Motor Company  
**Products:** MY 2011 to 2015 Ford Explorer  
**Population:** 638,612 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Complaints involving MY 2011 to 2015 Ford Explorers, including Police Interceptor models which report occupants smelling exhaust odors in the occupant compartment. Complainants expressed concerns about exposure to carbon monoxide.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	791	2,051	2719**
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	3	1	3**
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	23	0	23
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	39	0	39
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	2	0	2

\***Description of Other:** Two police involved incident identified during PE16-008 which were not reported on a VOQ report. The incidents involved one crash and two injury incidents (one non-crash), and two injuries in addition to those cited above.

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

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** PE16-008 has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA17-002).

### Summary:

During the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) investigation into the Ford carbon monoxide allegations, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) identified additional Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) reports with similar exhaust odor claims. Presently, ODI has identified 791 VOQs for Model Year 2011-2017 Ford Explorers pertaining to exhaust odor claims. ODI has identified three crashes and 41 injuries potentially linked this issue. The reported injuries range from unspecified to loss of consciousness, with the majority being nausea, headaches, or dizziness – all of which can be symptomatic of carbon monoxide exposure. Additionally, Ford provided 2,400 reports including owner complaints, warranty claims, dealer field reports, and legal claims, that involve 2,051 vehicles that may be connected to the exhaust odor issue.

NHTSA's Vehicle Test and Research Center tested multiple vehicles, including complaint vehicles, during the investigation. ODI also conducted field inspections of complaint vehicles and crashes involving police units that occurred while the officers were on duty. When possible, data was collected to quantify carbon monoxide levels in the examined vehicles.

Based on the information gathered to date, NHTSA upgraded this investigation to an Engineering Analysis

(EA17-002).

The reports cited above can be viewed at [NHTSA.gov](http://NHTSA.gov) under the following reference (ODI) numbers:

10458341 10466807 10472937 10485394 10493493 10497684 10503135 10511749 10521718  
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