



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

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

## 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 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>	154	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	1	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:** Open this Preliminary Evaluation

### Summary:

NHTSA has identified 154 complaints involving MY 2011 to 2015 Ford Explorers which report occupants smelling exhaust odors in the occupant compartment, some of which expressed concerns about exposure to carbon monoxide. There is one low speed crash incident (VOQ 10735818) alleged by a complainant, no injuries were reported.

Complaints indicate that 1) operating the vehicle with full throttle applications (e.g., climbing steep grades or merging onto freeway ramps), and or 2) use of the air conditioning system in recirculation mode both contribute to exhaust gas being detected in the vehicle.

Ford issued two related Technical Service Bulletins (TSB). Ford TSB 12-12-4 dated December 10, 2012, specified sealing and undercoating of certain areas of the rear floor pan and body seams, replacement of the left-side air extractor, and installation of rear lift gate drain valves. It was superseded by TSB 14-0130 dated July 22, 2014, which added additional software changes to the recirculation mode operation of the air conditioning system during full throttle application events. Some vehicle owners reported little or no improvement after the TSB remedy.

This investigation is opened to evaluate any potential driver related safety concerns caused by this issue.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at SaferCar.gov under the following identification numbers:

10458341, 10466807, 10472937, 10485394, 10497684, 10503135, 10521718, 10537052, 10545106, 10545178, 10548667, 10550076, 10550377, 10564269, 10573079, 10595494, 10604931, 10604940, 10604955, 10604967, 10605241, 10605966, 10606061, 10606369, 10606461, 10606792, 10607217, 10608498, 10608596, 10608674, 10608810, 10608917, 10609207, 10609211, 10609975, 10614840, 10616310, 10617594, 10618335, 10618502,

10618520, 10618745, 10618836, 10626537, 10628773, 10629572, 10629634, 10631312, 10632027, 10632709,  
10637147, 10639579, 10641360, 10641511, 10643108, 10643273, 10648221, 10648467, 10653747, 10654067,  
10654392, 10659295, 10669298, 10671158, 10671421, 10678149, 10679757, 10680410, 10692003, 10700778,  
10702500, 10703134, 10712975, 10713736, 10717658, 10717754, 10725238, 10725436, 10727056, 10731285,  
10732587, 10732799, 10733802, 10734961, 10735118, 10735146, 10735360, 10735627, 10735818, 10735901,  
10735964, 10743443, 10743755, 10745747, 10746288, 10746742, 10746807, 10746827, 10747611, 10747632,  
10749264, 10750387, 10758647, 10758923, 10759594, 10760659, 10760825, 10760886, 10760932, 10762966,  
10766308, 10767319, 10774844, 10778017, 10778491, 10778941, 10779097, 10805779, 10780183, 10780722,  
10781108, 10781623, 10782245, 10782265, 10782897, 10783862, 10786914, 10787074, 10788290, 10790476,  
10794461, 10794932, 10807090, 10807664, 10809245, 10809375, 10809612, 10809869, 10809978, 10811079,  
10816438, 10816755, 10819251, 10820259, 10820978, 10836277, 10836534, 10863341, 10863548, 10865366,  
10870424, 10871304, 10871495, 10873471