



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 16-017
Date Opened: 12/20/2016
Investigator: Stephen Mchenry **Reviewer:** Paul Simmons
Approver: Michael Brown
Subject: Extended Braking Distance

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: MY 2007 -2009 Ford Fusion & Mercury Milan
Population: 474,862 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The brake pedal may suddenly lose pressure and the vehicle stopping distance may unexpectedly increase.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	141	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	3	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: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 141 reports of sudden, unexpected increases in stopping distance in model year 2007 through 2009 Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan vehicles. The cause of the problem is believed to be the Antilock Braking System (ABS) Hydraulic Control Unit (HCU). Some of the complainants report that after an ABS type braking event, caused by braking on slippery surface, a rough or uneven surface, a manhole cover or similar irregularity in the roadway, that the brake pedal goes soft, frequently described as "going to the floor," and the amount of force required by the driver to stop the car increases significantly. In some cases the driver is unable to stop within their desired stopping distance. Complainants have also reported going past the expected stopping points for stop signs or red lights, some have reported being out into the flow of traffic before being able to bring the vehicle to a stop.

It is believed that the ABS HCU experiences an internal malfunction which causes an inability to maintain required braking pressure. Reports allege that the condition can continue for some time until it corrects itself, but will then reoccur if another ABS type braking event happens while other reports indicate that the replacement of the ABS HCU corrects the problem.

ODI has associated three crashes with this condition. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency, and safety-related consequence of the alleged defect.

The VOQs associated with the opening of this investigation are: (crashes 10852553, 10819862, 10690173) 10934917, 10934590, 10934454, 10929499, 10929495, 10926036, 10925894, 10925296, 10925210, 10924909, 10924287, 10924188, 10924068, 10923968, 10920650, 10920642, 10920381, 10917426, 10917229, 10917160, 10916867, 10916749, 10915658, 10911159, 10910435, 10907122, 10907093, 10906293, 10905557, 10903875, 10903135,

10899417, 10894501, 10894432, 10892944, 10888626, 10887635, 10883508, 10881298, 10876335, 10876046, 10875760, 10875748, 10874967, 10873431, 10873218, 10870186, 10865450, 10865169, 10863250, 10863161, 10863054, 10862114, 10860086, 10855365, 10854765, 10854702, 10852553, 10845863, 10840288, 10837770, 10837758, 10836833, 10836561, 10836359, 10825433, 10824987, 10824708, 10823422, 10822948, 10822164, 10820307, 10819862, 10818806, 10818601, 10811561, 10811083, 10810060, 10808346, 10807655, 10807637, 10807281, 10806755, 10806255, 10794803, 10790504, 10789689, 10789637, 10789437, 10787755, 10787563, 10785218, 10783662, 10779110, 10749892, 10745073, 10730359, 10721041, 10713269, 10712615, 10704042, 10694951, 10692468, 10690173, 10690056, 10684046, 10683872, 10680363, 10680357, 10679868, 10672699, 10670480, 10670396, 10658960, 10655357, 10653400, 10652002, 10650630, 10644354, 10641941, 10641549, 10640257, 10639014, 10631905, 10629592, 10618852, 10618330, 10618242, 10615775, 10606597, 10594697, 10587183, 10559710, 10558633, 10554281, 10533506, 10514752, 10489124, 10469486, 10467597, and 10455572.