



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 17-005
Date Opened: 09/18/2017
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Seatbelt retractor failure
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Polaris Industries, Inc.
Products: 2015 Polaris Slingshot
Population: 4,779

Problem Description: Seatbelt retractor failed.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	1	0	1
Number of Fatalities:	1	0	1

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigations (ODI) received Vehicle Owners Questionnaire (VOQ) #10981465 alleging the seatbelt retractor on a 2015 Polaris Slingshot failed during a crash resulting in fatal injuries to the driver of the vehicle. The subject Slingshot vehicle is a three wheeled motorcycle that, according to a Livonia, MI police report, veered while making a lane change and slid sideways into oncoming traffic where it was struck by a passenger vehicle heading the opposite direction. The police report also indicated that although the driver was wearing his seatbelt and helmet, he was partially ejected from the vehicle during the crash.

The manufacturer of the subject vehicle's seatbelts is Key Safety Systems, Inc. ODI is unaware of any other seatbelt retractor failures on Polaris Slingshot vehicles.

ODI has received copies of pictures taken of the failed seatbelt and seatbelt retractor. These pictures show the vehicle's seatbelt retractor in a shattered condition with the internal components found outside the retractor body. Allegedly, this failure caused the seat belt to release during the crash allowing the driver to be partially ejected.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine if a defect in the seatbelts installed on the subject vehicles allows them to release and prevent them from properly restraining occupants during a crash.