



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 17-007  
**Date Opened:** 10/23/2017  
**Investigator:** Nathan Ong **Reviewer:** Paul Simmons  
**Approver:** Stephen Ridella  
**Subject:** Steering Wheel Fastening Bolt Loosens

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Ford Motor Company  
**Products:** 2014-2016 Ford Fusion  
**Population:** 841,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** The steering wheel fastening bolt loosens.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	3	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	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 Preliminary Evaluation

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received three (3) Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) reports alleging the steering wheel fastening bolt became loose in model years 2014 through 2016 Ford Fusion vehicles. ODI has received one (1) report on each model year. The VOQs stated that the steering wheel became loose while the vehicle was in operation. Two of the complainants reported that the bolt attaching the wheel to the steering column had to be re-tightened at a repair facility. The third complainant alleged that while attempting to turn into a gas station, the steering wheel became completely detached from the steering column.

A detached steering wheel can result in a loss of vehicle control that may lead to a crash. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency, and safety-related consequence of the alleged defect.

The ODI reports cited above can be viewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.gov/complaints> under the following identification numbers: 10875757, 11013849, and 110252321