



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 19-004
Date Opened: 03/29/2019
Investigator: Michael Lee **Reviewer:** Paul Simmons
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Non-crash Vehicle Fires

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America
Products: 2011-2014 Kia Optima and Sorento; and 2010-2015 Kia Soul
Population: 1,686,790

Problem Description: Allegations of non-crash vehicle fires.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	244	1,540	1,784
Crashes/Fires:	244	1,540	1,784
Injury Incidents:	9	50	59
Number of Injuries:	11	66	77
Fatality Incidents:	1	1	1**
Number of Fatalities:	1	1	1**
Other*:	1	3	4

***Description of Other:** Reports of non-crash fires that allegedly caused a vehicle crash.

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Defect Petition DP18-003 has been granted. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

In a letter dated June 11, 2018, the Center for Auto Safety (CAS) petitioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to initiate a safety defect investigation into non-collision related fires on model year (MY) 2011-2014 Kia Optima and Sorento, and Hyundai Sonata and Santa Fe vehicles. In a letter dated July 24, 2018, CAS requested that MY 2010-2015 Kia Soul vehicles be added to the petition. CAS stated that there is a higher number of complaints to NHTSA regarding non-crash fires on these vehicles compared to other similar vehicles. The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) had already opened a Recall Query (RQ17-003) on all Kia vehicles equipped with Theta II engines for engine failures that may cause stalling and fires. The query covers most of the petition subject Optima and Sorento vehicles but not any of the subject Soul vehicles.

On August 21, 2018, ODI opened a Defect Petition (DP18-003) to evaluate whether to grant or deny the CAS petition. ODI sent Information Request letters to Kia (September and October 2018) requesting information on all engine and non-engine related fires in the petition Kia vehicles. ODI performed extensive analysis on the information obtained from Kia. During the DP18-003 analysis, Kia initiated three additional safety recalls related to engine compartment fires on certain petitioned and non-petitioned vehicles (nearly 500,000 total vehicles: Recalls 18V-907, 19V-101, and 19V-120). Based on ODI's review of the applicable materials, including responses to Information Requests sent to multiple manufacturers, Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQ), and Early Warning Data, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

The petition is hereby granted. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency, and potential safety-related consequences of alleged defects relating to non-collision vehicle fires in the 2011-2014 Kia Optima, 2011-2014 Kia Sorento, and 2010-2015 Kia Soul. While prior recalls of vehicles covered by this PE have primarily related to engine fires, NHTSA's Preliminary Evaluation is not limited to engine components and may cover additional vehicle systems or components as well.

Attached is a list of the reference numbers for the 244 VOQs cited above.

List of 244 VOQ Numbers

10341928, 10349737, 10351369, 10352853, 10359951, 10362292, 10370821, 10398744, 10412239, 10429442, 10429655, 10437522, 10441602, 10441698, 10447319, 10458979, 10476786, 10554720, 10566975, 10572612, 10587361, 10608591, 10626163, 10639351, 10639417, 10645013, 10661186, 10692124, 10693084, 10694186, 10702294, 10705662, 10714982, 10722839, 10726832, 10731276, 10748707, 10783067, 10786603, 10787041, 10787877, 10789435, 10808477, 10824280, 10836581, 10836751, 10839138, 10846035, 10850516, 10865183, 10873241, 10873251, 10874184, 10892633, 10894943, 10898504, 10901907, 10903731, 10903804, 10915744, 10918948, 10926798, 10927841, 10938549, 10958524, 10965933, 10970145, 10971641, 10978698, 10984187, 10984715, 10984970, 10985144, 10991332, 10991353, 10994523, 11001902, 11004359, 11004929, 11005870, 11010794, 11010999, 11012450, 11012531, 11013481, 11013556, 11015550, 11015777, 11015830, 11016332, 11019133, 11021789, 11022903, 11022912, 11025437, 11031971, 11040562, 11041768, 11047022, 11052937, 11055326, 11066866, 11071675, 11073341, 11074148, 11075310, 11076296, 11080315, 11081758, 11083606, 11089043, 11089968, 11090119, 11090295, 11093994, 11096761, 11097793, 11097934, 11098807, 11101703, 11101961, 11102293, 11102349, 11110065, 11110876, 11110889, 11111005, 11111480, 11111708, 11111767, 11112053, 11112362, 11112455, 11112486, 11112495, 11112496, 11112989, 11113500, 11114289, 11114517, 11115586, 11115650, 11115903, 11119545, 11119577, 11119685, 11119735, 11120580, 11120842, 11121206, 11121693, 11121719, 11121844, 11122204, 11123614, 11124571, 11127964, 11128568, 11128790, 11128814, 11128846, 11128852, 11129070, 11129587, 11131126, 11132280, 11132316, 11132429, 11132956, 11132973, 11133028, 11133307, 11133319, 11133458, 11139133, 11139148, 11139335, 11139506, 11140287, 11140337, 11140471, 11140474, 11141168, 11141323, 11141807, 11142172, 11142200, 11142272, 11142750, 11144208, 11144563, 11150291, 11151813, 11152031, 11153421, 11153705, 11154095, 11154128, 11154184, 11154347, 11154526, 11154607, 11154618, 11156388, 11156505, 11160651, 11160749, 11160978, 11161031, 11162215, 11163325, 11163941, 11164332, 11164861, 11166761, 11170550, 11170556, 11170588, 11170597, 11170614, 11170642, 11170778, 11171259, 11171483, 11173061, 11173144, 11173740, 11175775, 11176066, 11176183, 11176454, 11181712, 11183465, 11183921, 11183965, 11184819, 11185770, 11186541, 11187011, 11187068, 11187086, 11189793, 11190052, 11190214.