



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 19-009
Date Opened: 08/06/2019
Investigator: Cheryl Rose **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Occupant Detection System (ODS) Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Subaru of America, Inc.
Products: 2016-2018 Subaru Forester vehicles
Population: 553,692 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The Occupant Detection System (ODS) for the front passenger side air bag may malfunction causing the passenger side air bag to not operate as intended.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	51	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	Confidential	Confidential

*Description of Other: EWR Field Report data

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 51 complaints and additional Early Warning Report (EWR) data related to allegations of front passenger seat Occupant Detection System (ODS) malfunctions in model year (MY) 2016 through 2018 Subaru Forester vehicles. These vehicles use a capacitive type ODS, which is intended to classify the occupant of the passenger seat as either full-sized, small stature, a child seat or other object. The complaints report the ODS failed to operate properly, the SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) warning light illuminated, and/or the ODS incorrectly suppressed (turned off) the front passenger air bag when the seat was occupied by a full-sized passenger. In a frontal crash sufficient to warrant deployment, a suppressed air bag may increase the risk of injury to the occupant of the seat.

ODI is opening this investigation to assess the scope, frequency, and consequences of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues> under the following (ODI) identification numbers: 11232569, 11230006, 11229301, 11228633, 11221676, 11221333, 11221048, 11220818, 11208734, 11205164, 11197003, 11194757, 11194451, 11192564, 11184937, 11184689, 11184544, 11182658, 11173781, 11172674, 11166156, 11165546, 11156964, 11154746, 11152921, 11151957, 11150824, 11149508, 11143434, 11142191, 11141206, 11140691, 11132985, 11131785, 11124557 (duplicate of VOQ 11105070), 11124239, 11111454, 11110572, 11110323, 11110111, 11105070, 11102823, 11100798, 11091464, 11083621, 11082273, 11067171, 11052876, 11052638, 11041443, 11031915, 11025406.