



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 20-016  
**Date Opened:** 10/09/2020  
**Investigator:** Alexander Argant  
**Approver:** Stephen Ridella  
**Subject:** EV Battery Fire  
**Reviewer:** Gregory Magno

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** General Motors LLC  
**Products:** 2017-2020 Chevrolet Bolt EV  
**Population:** 77,842 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Complainants report fires starting under rear seating area in parked vehicles.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	2	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	3	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	1	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	1	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	1	TBD	TBD

\*Description of Other: Insurance auction yard

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open a Preliminary Evaluation

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has received two Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs) regarding a model year (MY) 2018 and a MY 2019 Chevrolet Bolt EV and alleging that the vehicles caught fire under the rear seat while parked and unattended.

ODI conducted additional research, and found a MY 2017 Bolt EV with a similar burn pattern in the interior rear seat area.

In the three cases identified, fire damage appeared to be concentrated in the EV battery compartment area with penetration into the passenger compartment from under the rear seat. The root cause of these fires is unknown. One of these incidents, ODI 11230072, reported smoke inhalation injuries.

ODI is opening a Preliminary Evaluation to assess the scope, frequency, circumstances, and safety consequences of the alleged fires.

The reports cited above can be reviewed at NHTSA.gov under the following reference numbers: 11230072, 11339878.