



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
NHTSA
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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
Complaints:	2	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	3	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	1	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	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](https://www.nhtsa.gov) under the following reference numbers: 11230072, 11339878.