



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 21-008
Date Opened: 03/29/2021
Investigator: Sean Hays
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Fuel Injector Leak
Reviewer: Tanya Topka

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Products: 2018-2020 Volkswagen Atlas
Population: 191,502 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Fuel leaks from the fuel injectors in the engine compartment have a higher risk of fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	TBD	3
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	0
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	11	Confidential	Confidential

*Description of Other: Early Warning Reporting (EWR) field reports

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 3 complaints from vehicle owners and a number of EWR field reports alleging that the fuel injection system is leaking at or near the fuel injectors in 2018-2020 MY Volkswagen Atlas vehicles. These vehicles are equipped with 3.6L engines. ODI also observed that warranty data for the fuel system was higher for the MY 2018 Atlas.

Fuel injectors are leaking fuel near engine compartment components that operate at high temperatures. Consumers allege a fuel leak, fuel odor, and/or illuminated malfunction indicator light (MIL) alerts them to the condition. Some complaints allege fuel spewing from the engine compartment. Fuel leaking in the engine compartment has a higher potential risk of fire as the components are operating at higher temperatures compared to other areas of the vehicle. No fires have been connected to this issue to date.

ODI is opening this preliminary evaluation (PE) to determine the scope and severity of the potential problem as well as fully assess the potential safety-related issues of fuel leaks for the 2018-2020 MY Volkswagen Atlas. ODI will assess fuel leaks in general with an emphasis on leaks in the engine compartment related to the fuel injectors.

The ODI reports cited above are available for review online at NHTSA.gov under the following identification numbers: 11382958 11218819 11218780