



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE22011
Prompted By: Early Warning Reporting Data Review
Date Opened: 11/28/2022 **Date:** 07/22/2024
Closed:
Investigator: Joseph Oxenham **Reviewer:** Sharon Yukevich
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Rear Differential Seizure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Honda (American Honda Motor Co.)
Products: 2018-2022 Honda CR-V, 2018-2022 Honda HR-V
Population: 1,506,107

Problem Description: THE EWR field reports allege that the loss of motive power is caused by differential seal leaks resulting in rear differential seizure.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	0	1,201	0	0	1,201	CONF
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Injuries:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Fatalities:	0	0	0	0	0	0

Description of Other:

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This (PE) Preliminary Evaluation is closed without a manufacturer action.

Summary:

On November 29, 2022, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened PE 22-011 after reviewing field reports alleging rear differential seizure in 2018-2022MY Honda CR-V and HR-V vehicles equipped with all wheel drive. To date, ODI has not received any consumer complaints.

Some of the field reports received alleged the vehicle's wheels locked up with no warning while the vehicle was in motion. These vehicles were towed to a dealership. Examination of these vehicles showed the driveshaft had broken and the differential unit was completely damaged. The field reports cited a lack of oil due to damaged oil seals as the cause.

Honda provided data including consumer complaints, field reports, and warranty claims they received relating to the loss of oil retention and resulting differential damage. Honda's data cited 1201 incidents with unique vehicle identification numbers (VINs).

The rear differential oil seals prevent the oil from leaking out and protect internal components from contaminants. A loss of oil lubrication results in failure of the vehicle differential. Honda stated that the oil seal's lip contact with the driveshaft may become unstable due to intermittent changes in internal pressure. Their review of field report and warranty data indicated that these failures occurred early in the vehicle's life thus the failures were covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Honda stated that in November 2021 they changed the seal specifications and improved the packaging process of the parts for transport. Honda also enacted an enhanced visual inspection process both before and after the oil seal installation on the assembly line.

Honda stated that in the event of differential failure, the operator can control the vehicle without stability loss. After the drive shafts break due to differential failure, the operator will hear noises and the vehicle will still function as a 2WD vehicle preventing complete loss of motive power.

Based on the following factors, ODI is closing this investigation:

- Information regarding field failures does not indicate hazardous outcomes
- The failures are occurring early in the life of the vehicle
- Repairs are covered under the manufacturer's warranty
- The vehicle can continue functioning as a 2WD without loss of stability control in the event of failure

The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist, and the agency reserves the right to take additional action if warranted by new circumstances.