



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

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



Investigation: PE23017
Prompted By: VOQ, EWR Field Report, and EWR D&I Review
Date Opened: 09/28/2023
Investigator: Thomas Haugh **Reviewer:** Sharon Yukevich
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Inadvertent Automatic Emergency Braking

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Products: 2018-2019 Volkswagen Atlas
Population: 184,199 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Inadvertent activation of the automatic emergency braking system resulting in sudden vehicle deceleration, increasing the risk of a collision.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	59	0	1	0	60	CONF
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	4	0	1	0	0	0
Number of Injuries:	6	0	1	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Fatalities:	0	0	0	0	0	0

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 59 complaints, 1 Early Warning Reporting (EWR) Death and Injury (D&I) record, and several EWR Field Reports alleging inadvertent activation of the Front Assist automatic emergency braking (AEB) system in model year 2018-2019 Volkswagen Atlas vehicles. The complaints allege that activation of the AEB system occurs while driving with no apparent obstruction in the vehicle's forward path, resulting in sudden vehicle deceleration. Inadvertent AEB activation can increase the risk of a collision, particularly impact from the rear. Of the 59 complaints and 1 EWR D&I record, 5 allege that minor injuries resulted from inadvertent AEB activation.

ODI is opening this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) to determine the scope and severity of the potential problem and to fully assess the potential safety-related problems. To review the ODI reports cited in the Opening Resume ODI Report Identification Number document, go to [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov).

