



York, Bruce <bruce.york@dot.gov>

RE: 2019 Malibu fatal airbag deployment

1 message

York, Bruce (NHTSA) <Bruce.York@dot.gov>

Fri, Dec 19, 2025 at 12:41 PM

To: "Manganello, Christopher (NHTSA)" <c.manganello@dot.gov>, "Weston, Doug (NHTSA)" <doug.weston@dot.gov>, "Bonilla, Pedro (NHTSA)" <pedro.bonilla@dot.gov>

Thanks Chris.

Thank You,



Bruce York

Division Chief
Office of Defects Investigation

Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590

Office: W48-304 • Phone: 202-738-3842

From: Manganello, Christopher (NHTSA) <c.manganello@dot.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 12:40 PM

To: York, Bruce (NHTSA) <Bruce.York@dot.gov>; Weston, Doug (NHTSA) <doug.weston@dot.gov>; Bonilla, Pedro (NHTSA) <pedro.bonilla@dot.gov>

Subject: RE: 2019 Malibu fatal airbag deployment

The officer's name is Sgt. Jason Eiden. He provided his work cell: (419) 420-5729.

He also included additional information after the initial conversation that he found record of the vehicle having a prior frontal crash in 2023, which makes it plausible that the airbag inflator was replaced at some point.

NHTSA

Chris Manganello

Electronics Engineer, Defects Analysis

NHTSA Vehicle Research and Test Center

Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

10820 OH-347 Building #60, East Liberty, OH 43319

Office: 937-666-4511 x226

From: York, Bruce (NHTSA) <Bruce.York@dot.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 12:36 PM

To: Weston, Doug (NHTSA) <doug.weston@dot.gov>; Bonilla, Pedro (NHTSA) <pedro.bonilla@dot.gov>;
Manganello, Christopher (NHTSA) <c.manganello@dot.gov>

Subject: RE: 2019 Malibu fatal airbag deployment

Chris,

This has very high priority in the agency. Please forward the officers contact information as soon as you can.

Thank You,



Bruce York

Division Chief
Office of Defects Investigation

Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590

Office: W48-304 • Phone: 202-738-3842

From: Weston, Doug (NHTSA) <doug.weston@dot.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 10:32 AM

To: York, Bruce (NHTSA) <Bruce.York@dot.gov>; Bonilla, Pedro (NHTSA) <pedro.bonilla@dot.gov>

Subject: 2019 Malibu fatal airbag deployment

Wel got a call today from a sergeant with the Ohio State Highway Patrol about a potential airbag defect on a fatal crash up i [REDACTED] OH. The sergeant reported that the victim suffered lacerations to the neck and throat area, shrapnel was found in the headliner of the vehicle, and the airbag was separated from the inflator module. He will be providing photos of the vehicle interior, which is located in a salvage yard. He noted no catastrophic damage to any of the vehicles involved in the

The vehicle is a 2019 Chevrolet Malibu; there are no current investigations or issues tracking airbag defects in that specific vehicle. The vehicle has no outstanding recalls on it.

I am out today and Monday. Pleas contact Chris Manganello and copy me for additional coordination . Chris got the call today. I will be checking email.

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