

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building, W41-326
Washington, DC 20590

In re:	)	
	)	
EA15-005	)	STANDING GENERAL ORDERS
Air Bag Inflator Rupture	)	2015-01 AND 2015-02
	)	DIRECTED TO VEHICLE AND
PE15-027	)	INFLATOR MANUFACTURERS
Air Bag Inflator Rupture	)	
	)	APPENDIX A

AIR BAG INFLATOR RUPTURE INCIDENT REPORT

Report Type (i.e., initial, amended, supplemental, final): Initial-Final

Report Prepared By: Timothy Cochran Tel. No. (586)441-8004

Title: Senior Manager External Investigations Date: 01/23/2026

Employer: General Motors LLC

Vehicle Occupant Information

Notification Date: 01/22/2026 Name(s): Unknown

Legal Representative: Attorney's Tel. No.

Vehicle Information

Make: Chevrolet Model: Malibu Model Year: 2018

VIN: Vehicle Registration (i.e., state): KS

Vehicle Build Date: 07/30/2018

Inflator Information

Inflator Manufacturer: DTN Inflator Serial Number:

Original Equipment: ☐ Replacement Equipment: ☒ Unknown: ☐

Inflator Location (e.g., driver/passenger, front/rear seat, side, curtain, knee): Driver Frontal Airbag

Inflator Type (e.g., pyrotechnic/stored gas/hybrid):

Inflator Family (e.g., PSDI-4):

Inflator Build Date:

Incident Information

Incident Date: 10/31/2025

Incident Location: Kansas

Description of the Incident: (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

On January 22nd, Kansas Highway Patrol informed GM of an alleged rupture incident involving a DTN aftermarket airbag inflator installed in a 2018 Chevrolet Malibu.

Number of Fatalities: 1

Number of Injuries: 0

Description of the Injuries:

Kansas Highway Patrol informed GM the driver suffered fatal injuries.

Occupant Seat Location(s): Driver Front

Information Regarding Your Investigation

Have you confirmed a rupture? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Have you confirmed that no rupture occurred? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Has a vehicle inspection been scheduled? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, when?

What is your current understanding as to the nature of the incident and/or the root cause of the inflator rupture? (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

The photos received from the Kansas Highway Patrol confirmed that the airbag inflator from the subject vehicle ruptured. The inflator appears to be a DTN manufactured aftermarket counterfeit inflator module.

Are you aware of any failures during lot acceptance testing (LAT) or conformance of production (CoP) testing involving the type of inflator identified in this report?

No.

Is there any other information relevant to your investigation that we should know? (e.g., vehicle history, production history, related field incidents) (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

The Carfax of the subject vehicle identified three prior reported crashes in January 2022, September 2023, and December 2024. No airbag deployments were reported in any of these prior accidents. GM's warranty records indicate that the vehicle was not repaired at a GM dealership after any reported crash events. CDR data downloaded from the subject vehicle identified three recorded events with two indicating airbag deployments.