



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

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE26006
Prompted By: VOQ Review
Date Opened: 07/29/2026
Investigator: Stefanie Oldenburg **Reviewer:** Sharon Yukevich
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Lower Lateral Link detachment

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Tesla, Inc.
Products: 2018-2020 Model 3, 2021-2023 Model Y
Population: 1,198,300 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Lower Lateral Link detaches, potentially causing a loss of vehicle directional control

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	156	0	0	0	156	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 156 complaints alleging a suspension failure in model year (MY) 2018-2020 Model 3 and MY 2021-2023 Model Y vehicles. The suspension failure involves the detachment of the front lower lateral link, which potentially causes a loss of vehicle directional control.

In most cases, there was no advance warning or indication that the suspension failure would occur. Some cases cite noises occurring prior to failure, but note that the vehicle provides no visual warnings. Once the failure occurs, the vehicle may not be drivable, thus requiring a tow.

Tesla has previously recalled vehicles for lateral link detachments through two recalls. Recall 21V-835 addressed 2,791 MY2019-2021 Tesla Model 3 vehicles due to a production issue. Recall 23V-235 addressed 422 2018-2019 Tesla Model 3 vehicles that had experienced similar failures to those recalled under 21V-835. The subject failures for this investigation exceed the scope of these recalls and do not appear to be related to the production issue that prompted those recalls.

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