

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

2006 APR 12 A 9 41  
DEFECT INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation  
Stephan J. Speth  
Director  
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

April 7, 2006

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator, Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 06V-001

Enclosed are update copies of communications relating to the 1999 and 2000 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler notified dealers on April 5, 2006 and plans to begin owner notification during the week of April 10, 2006. The exact number of The Polk Company currently registered vehicles in the recall has been revised to 144,806.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
XN500003	XN697313
XT200010	XT613385
YN100005	YN311970
YT200006	YT324212

(VIN last eight characters) - X = 1999 model year; Y = 2000 model year; N = Sterling Heights Assembly Plant, Sterling Heights, Michigan; T = Toluca Assembly Plant, Toluca, Mexico; and the last six digits = sequential number.

**We caution that the above range represents only the lowest and highest VIN sequential numbers included in the recall. This range cannot be used to determine conclusively that a vehicle is involved in the recall because most vehicles with a VIN within the range are not affected by the recall.**

This completes DaimlerChrysler's package of information for this recall as required by the Defects Report Regulation.

Sincerely,

  
Stephan J. Speth, Director  
Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs

Enclosure: Recall E23

cc: K.C. DeMeter

April 2006

Dealer Service Instructions for:

# **Safety Recall E23**

## **High Pressure Power Steering Hose**

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### **Models**

**1999-2000 (JA) Chrysler Cirrus, Dodge Stratus and Plymouth Breeze**

*NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with a 2.4L engine (sales code EDZ).*

**IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer used vehicle inventory. Dealers should complete this recall service on these vehicles before retail delivery.** Dealers should also perform this recall on vehicles in for service. Involved vehicles can be determined by using the VIP inquiry process.

### **Subject**

The high pressure power steering hose on about 94,000 of the above vehicles may crack and develop a power steering fluid leak. Power steering fluid leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in an underhood fire.

### **Repair**

The high pressure power steering hose must be replaced.

<b>Parts Information</b>
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**A. Hose, Power Steering (w/sales code SBA)**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CBNTE231AB</b>	<b>Hose, Power Steering</b>

Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Power Steering hose
2	O-rings

**Each dealer** to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced will receive enough hose packages to service about 10% of those vehicles.

**B. Hose, Power Steering (w/sales code SBC)**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CBATE232</b>	<b>Hose, Power Steering</b>

Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Power Steering hose
1	O-ring
1	Banjo Bolt
2	Copper Washers

**Each dealer** to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced will receive enough hose packages to service about 10% of those vehicles.

**C. Power Steering Fluid**

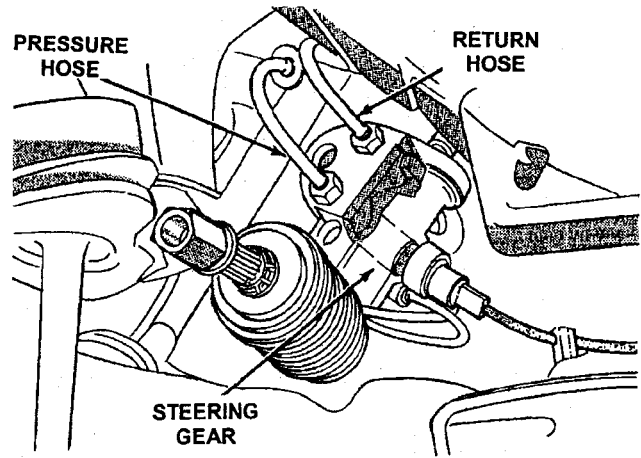
<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>05166226AA</b>	<b>Fluid, Power Steering (16 Oz. Bottle)</b>

**Service Procedure**

**Replace the High Pressure Power Steering Hose**

1. Open the hood
2. Remove the air filter lid, air intake resonator and throttle body air box as an assembly.
3. Using a suction gun, remove the power steering fluid from the power steering fluid reservoir.

**NOTE: Clean the power steering reservoir cap and surrounding area to prevent dirt from entering the system when the cap is removed.**

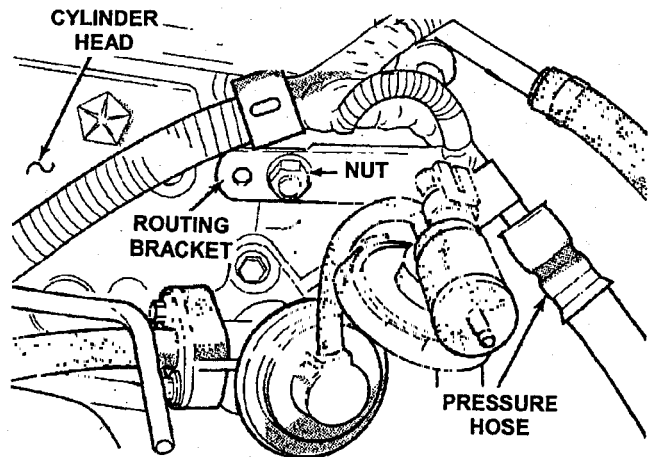


**Figure 1**

4. Using an 18mm line wrench, disconnect the pressure hose at the steering gear housing (Figure 1).

**NOTE: If the pressure hose nut will not come loose from the steering gear housing, cut the pressure hose off at the nut with a mini-tube cutter and use a 6 point deep-well socket to remove the nut.**

5. Remove the EGR transducer from the back of the engine cylinder head to gain access to the power steering hose routing bracket (Figure 2).
6. Remove the fasteners that hold the power steering pressure hose routing brackets to the engine cylinder head (Figure 2).
7. Using an appropriate hoist, lift the vehicle.



**Figure 2**

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

8. Remove the right front wheel-well housing plastic splash shield (Figure 3).
9. Remove and discard the plastic tie strap on the power steering pressure hose near the back of the pump (Figure 4).
10. Remove the pressure hose nut or banjo bolt from the power steering pump.
11. Push the disconnected pressure hose up to clear the power steering drive belt.
12. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.
13. Remove and discard the old power steering pressure hose from the vehicle.

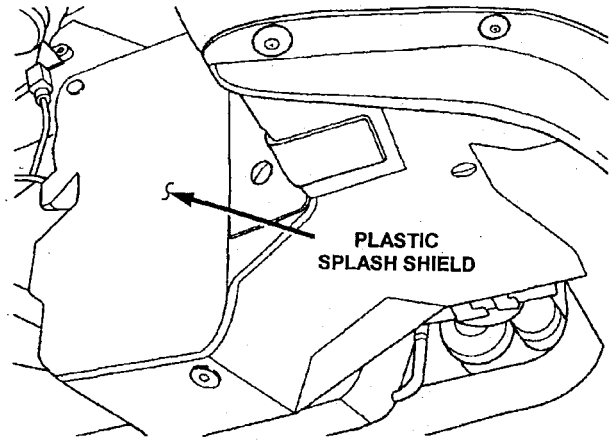


Figure 3

**NOTE: Verify that the old o-rings came off with the pressure hose. If the o-rings are not on the pressure hose, verify that they are not stuck in the rack and pinion housing and/or the power steering pump fitting.**

14. Place the new power steering pressure hose into position.
15. Lift the vehicle on the hoist.
16. Connect the power steering pressure hose to the power steering pump outlet port.
  - Vehicles with a **hose nut** (without variable-assist steering) tighten to 23 ft. lbs. (31 N·m).
  - Vehicles with a **banjo bolt** (variable-assist steering) tighten to 35 ft. lbs (47 N·m).

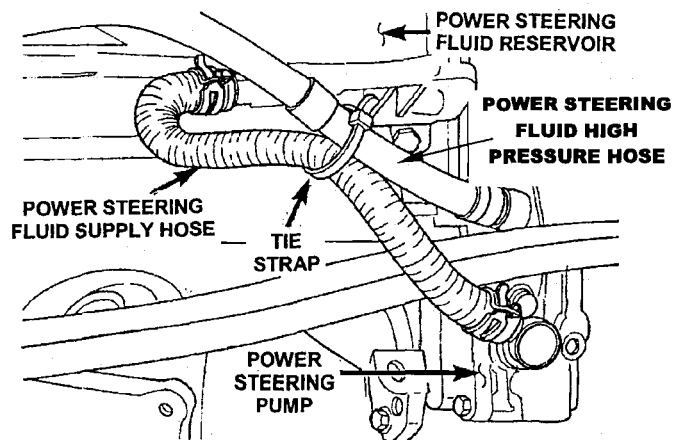


Figure 4

17. Install a new plastic tie strap that holds the power steering fluid supply hose to the power steering pressure hose (Figure 4).
18. Install the right front wheel-well housing plastic splash shield (Figure 3).

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

19. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.
20. Install the fasteners that hold the power steering pressure hose routing bracket to the engine cylinder head (Figure 2). Tighten the fasteners to 21 ft. lbs. (28 N·m).
21. Install the EGR transducer to the back of the engine cylinder head.
22. Connect the power steering pressure hose to the steering gear housing. Tighten the fasteners to 23 ft. lbs. (31 N·m).
23. Install the air filter lid, air intake resonator and throttle body air box as an assembly.
24. Bleed the air from the power steering system using the following procedure:
  - a. Fill the power steering reservoir to the correct fluid level.
  - b. Start the engine and let it run for 5 seconds and then turn off the engine.
  - c. Add power steering fluid to the system as required.
  - d. Repeat Steps a through c until the fluid level remains constant after running the engine.
  - e. Raise the front wheels off the ground.
  - f. Start the engine and slowly turn the steering wheel right and left several times until lightly contacting the wheel stops. Then turn off the engine.
  - g. Add power steering fluid if necessary.
  - h. Lower the vehicle.
  - i. Start the engine and turn the steering wheel slowly from lock to lock and then turn off the engine.
  - j. Add power steering fluid if necessary.

**NOTE: If the power steering fluid is extremely foamy, allow it to stabilize for a few minutes and then check the fluid level.**

25. Inspect high pressure hose connections to ensure that there are no leaks.

**Completion Reporting and Reimbursement**

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DealerCONNECT Claim Entry Screen located on the Service tab. Claims submitted will be used by DaimlerChrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	<b>Labor Operation Number</b>	<b>Time Allowance</b>
Replace high pressure power steering hose	19-E2-31-82	1.3 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts package plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

**NOTE: See the Warranty Administration Manual, Recall Claim Processing Section, for complete recall claim processing instructions.**

**Dealer Notification**

All dealers will receive a copy of this dealer recall notification letter by mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS. To view this notification on DealerCONNECT, select “Global Recall System” on the Service tab, then click on the description of this notification.

**Owner Notification and Service Scheduling**

All involved vehicle owners known to DaimlerChrysler are being notified of the service requirement by first class mail. They are requested to schedule appointments for this service with their dealers. A generic copy of the owner letter is attached. Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification postcard to allow owners to update our records if applicable.

**Vehicle Lists, Global Recall System, VIP and Dealer Follow Up**

All involved vehicles have been entered into the DealerCONNECT Global Recall System (GRS) and Vehicle Information Plus (VIP) for dealer inquiry as needed.

GRS provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The owner's name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from GRS within several days of repair claim submission.

To use this system, click on the “**Service**” tab and then click on “**Global Recall System.**” Your dealer's VIN list for each recall displayed can be sorted by: those vehicles that were unsold at recall launch, those with a phone number, city, zip code, or VIN sequence.

**Dealers must perform this repair on all unsold vehicles before retail delivery.** Dealers should also use the VIN list to follow up with all owners to schedule appointments for this repair.

*Recall VIN lists may contain confidential, restricted owner name and address information that was obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles of various states. Use of this information is permitted for this recall only and is strictly prohibited from all other use.*

**Additional Information**

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Service and Parts District Manager.

Customer Services Field Operations  
DaimlerChrysler Corporation



*Buckle up  
for Safety!*

**SAFETY RECALL E23 – HIGH PRESSURE POWER STEERING HOSE**

Dear: (Name)

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. DaimlerChrysler Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some **1999 and 2000 model year Chrysler Cirrus, Dodge Stratus and Plymouth Breeze vehicles equipped with a 2.4L engine.**

***The problem is...*** The high pressure power steering hose on your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may crack and develop a power steering fluid leak. Power steering fluid leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in an underhood fire.

***What your dealer will do...*** DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will replace the high pressure power steering hose. The work will take about 1½ hours to complete. However, additional time may be necessary depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed.

***What you must do to ensure your safety...*** Simply **contact your dealer** right away to schedule a service appointment. Ask the dealer to hold the part for your vehicle or to order it before your appointment. **Remember to bring this letter with you to your dealer.**

***If you need help...*** If you have questions or concerns which your dealer is unable to resolve, please contact DaimlerChrysler at 1-800-853-1403.

Please help us update our records, by filling out the enclosed prepaid postcard, if any of the conditions listed on the card apply to you or your vehicle. Be sure to print the last eight (8) characters of the VIN (VVVVVVVV) and notification code E23 on the postcard.

If you have already experienced this condition and have paid to have it repaired, you may send your original receipts and/or other adequate proof of payment to the following address for reimbursement: DaimlerChrysler P.O. Box 4639 Oak Ridge, TN 37831, Attention: Reimbursement.

If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but we are sincerely concerned about your safety. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Customer Services Field Operations  
DaimlerChrysler Corporation  
Notification Code E23

*Note to lessors receiving this recall: Federal regulation requires that you forward this recall notice to the lessee within 10 days.*