

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

*REVIEWED BY:
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John Turley*

573.6(c)(1)

Name of manufacturer: Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC

Manufacturer's agent: John Turley
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2)

Identification of potentially affected vehicles:

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dates of Manufacture</u>
Honda Ridgeline	2017 model year	05/08/2016 to 08/31/2017
Honda Ridgeline	2018 model year	07/27/2017 to 03/07/2018
Honda Ridgeline	2019 model year	01/09/2018 to 01/16/2019

Description of the basis for the determination of the recall population:

The recall population was determined based on manufacturing records. The production range reflects all possible vehicles that could potentially experience the problem.

Description of how the vehicles being recalled differ from similar vehicles not included in the recall:

All vehicles built from production start-up through January 16, 2019 are affected. Vehicles built starting on January 17, 2019 were assembled with a fuel pump cover to seal the fuel feed port from drainage.

Identification of affected component:

Component: Fuel Pump Module
Part No.: 17045-TZ5-A10
Country of Origin: U.S.
Manufacturer: KYOSAN DENSO Manufacturing Kentucky, LLC

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Total number of potentially affected vehicles: 106,683

<u>Make/Model</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles</u>
Honda Ridgeline	2017	49,524
Honda Ridgeline	2018	21,394
Honda Ridgeline	2019	35,765

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Percentage of affected vehicles that contain the defect: 100%

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Defect description:

Car wash detergents containing sulfuric acid could drain from the truck bed and seep into the fuel pump's fuel feed port. If not rinsed off, sulfuric acid seepage can crack the fuel feed port, resulting in a pressurized fuel leak. Fuel leakage in the presence of an ignition source increases the risk of a fire.

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Chronology:

February 2017

Honda received the first report of a fuel leak and began an investigation.

April 2017

The fuel pump module supplier reviewed the failed part and judged that the cracking of the fuel feed port was caused by acid exposure. Honda resolved the investigation as it was estimated to be a unique occurrence.

August 2017 to March 2018

After receiving additional reports of fuel leak/smell, Honda reopened the investigation. This included investigation of the various entry paths that fluids could reach the fuel pump feed port, analyzing how the vehicle's layout contributed to fluid entry, and failure mode analysis of returned parts. The analysis of returned parts confirmed that residual and material stress did not contribute to the cracking.

April to August 2018

Based on information provided by vehicle owners who complained of a fuel leak/smell occurring shortly after a car wash, Honda began analysis of car wash detergents to determine whether there was correlation between the two. Re-creation tests confirmed that car wash detergents containing sulfuric acid could cause material degradation and cracking in the fuel feed port.

October to November 2018

Once the correlation of car washes and fuel feed port cracking was established, Honda once again investigated how fluids reached the fuel feed port. Honda confirmed that the drain holes in the truck bed allowed fluids to channel towards the fuel feed port.

January 17, 2019

Honda determined that a defect related to motor vehicle safety existed and decided to conduct a safety recall.

As of January 17, 2019, Honda has received 14 warranty claims, 6 field reports, and no reports of fires or injuries related to this issue.

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Program for remedying the defect:

Registered owners of all affected vehicles will be contacted by mail and asked to take their vehicle to a Honda automobile dealer. The dealer will inspect the fuel feed port for cracks or leaks and if damaged, replace the fuel pump for free. The dealer will also install a fuel pump cover on all fuel pumps for free.

Because the limited new vehicle warranty on all affected vehicles would have provided a free repair for the problem addressed by this recall, without any payment by the owner, reimbursement for pre-notification repairs will not be offered.

The estimated date to start notification to dealers: January 25, 2019

The estimated date to start notifications to owners: March 7, 2019

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Representative copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications:

A copy of the dealer service bulletin, the final owner notification letter and other dealer communication will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted to your office as soon as possible.

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Manufacturer's campaign number: Q3V