



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-010  
 Prompted By: Fleet Report  
 Date Opened: 01/22/2004      Date Closed: 07/08/2004  
 Principal Investigator: Robert Young  
 Subject: Rear Axle Fracture

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company  
 Products: Ford 2003 Crown Victoria, Grand Marquis, And Town Car  
 Population: 47314

Problem Description: Rear axle shaft fractures at outer bearing interface.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	15	17
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description of Other:

Action: Ford is recalling the affected vehicles (04V-328). Close this PE.

Engineer: Bob Young

Date: 07/08/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd RB

Date: 07/08/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/08/2004

Summary: This PE was opened after ODI became aware of two allegations concerning rear axle fracture and partial wheel separation involving MY 2003 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors (CVPI). Initially, the PE's scope involved all MY 2003 Grand Marquis, Crown Victoria, and Lincoln Town Cars (i.e., "panther platform") produced through January 2003.

While gathering information about this issue, it became evident that the failures were confined to long-wheelbase Lincoln town cars and the CVPI's due to their unique weight distribution and usage profiles. Ford's recall addresses these vehicles. Both the company and ODI are continuing to monitor the field performance of the axles and will take appropriate action as required.

*MS  
faxed on  
7/12/04*