



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 05-005
Prompted By:
Date Opened: 09/22/2005
Principal Investigator: Greg Magno
Subject: Spark Plug Ejection from Cylinder Head

Manufacturer: Accubuilt, Inc., Ford Motor Company, Truck Trailer Equip. Co.
Products: 1997-2004 Ford vehicles equipped with Triton V-8 or V-10
Population: 17,000,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Spark plugs ejected from engine cylinder head while driving.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	337	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	4	0	0

*Description Of Other: Complaints alleging fires, crash, injury, a death - all contradicted by their narratives

Action: The petition will be evaluated for a grant or deny decision.

Engineer: Gregory E. Magno *LOM 9/22/05*

Date: 09/22/2005

Div. Chief: Gregory E. Magno

Date: 09/22/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/22/2005

Summary: A California law firm has filed a defect petition on behalf of nine plaintiffs concerning the ejection of spark plugs from "Triton" V-8 and V-10 engines in an estimated seventeen million Ford vehicles (including many trucks, SUVs, the Mustang and the Crown Victoria) built from 1997 - 2004.

The petitioners allege that the cylinder heads incorporate too few threads and inappropriate metallurgy to retain the spark plugs; that numerous reports of spark plug ejection have been filed with NHTSA, the state of California, and Ford; and that spark plug ejections may lead to vehicle fires, stalling, engine damage, and in some cases, puncture the hood.

ODI will evaluate the petition and supporting evidence to assess the scope and consequence of this problem.