



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 16-016
Date Opened: 12/16/2016
Investigator: Matthew Martens **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Michael Brown
Subject: Engine Compartment Fire

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SMART USA DISTRIBUTOR LLC
Products: MY 2008-2009 Smart Fortwo
Population: 42,875 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Fire allegations from the rear engine compartment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8	TBD	8
Crashes/Fires:	8	TBD	8
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received eight complaints (VOQs) reporting incidents of engine compartment fire in model year (MY) 2008 and 2009 Smart Fortwo vehicles. Six of the incidents report experiencing symptoms of smoke, check engine light illumination or unusual noise while driving, before pulling over and observing fire in the engine compartment. The other two incidents were not detected until the vehicles were stopped. All eight incidents involve severe fires that rapidly engulfed the vehicles. Five of the incidents occurred in 2015 and the most recent three have all occurred since October 2016. The complaints report incident mileages ranging from 29,000 to 86,000 miles (average is approximately 54,000 miles).

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the cause, scope and frequency of the alleged defect.

The following VOQ numbers are associated with the issues discussed in this opening resume: 10924637, 10924311, 10916505, 10872656, 10820891, 10790017, 10780222, 10676359.