



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
Principal Investigator: Robert Young
Subject: Rear Axle Fracture

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY
Products: 2003 CROWN VICTORIA, GRAND MARQUIS, AND TOWN CAR
Population: 287819

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
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	4

*Description Of Other: Two fleets report a total of four axle fracture/separation incidents.

Action: OPEN A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION (PE)

Engineer: Bob Young

Date: 01/22/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 01/22/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/22/2004

Summary: Two police fleets report a total of four axle fracture/wheel assembly separation incidents. Subsequently the fleets found unusual axle wear at axle/outer bearing interface on a substantial number of their 2003 Crown Victoria police cruisers.

On March 17, 2003, Ford issued a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) for "premature wear" of the rear axle shaft and/or axle bearing on my 2003 Crown Victoria, Town Car, and Grand Marquis models.

We are opening this PE to gather more information about this subject.

*Not
faxed
1/23/04*