

# Safety Research Report Index - GM X-Car Rear Brake Lockup

## A. BACKGROUND

1. "X-Car Brakes," Automobile Design Liability, 2nd Edition,(Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Co.),  
Cumulative Supplement, December 1985
2. "Apparent Brake Flaw Reported: Tested Cars, Okay With Full Load, Slue in Panic Stops,"  
Washington Star, 5/11/79
3. "For Want of a Hand Brake," Car and Driver, Oct. 1979
4. New York Times articles on GM recall of 1980 X-cars, GM tests and government's lawsuit, 1/5/83,  
2/10/83, 3/2/83, 8/4/83
5. "X-Car: Anatomy of a brake lock-up," Detroit Free Press, 5/27/83
6. Jack Anderson columns on GM X-car, 7/2/83, 10/22/83
7. "Test drivers reported X-car problem -- GM launched output despite brake lock-up," Detroit Free Press, 9/28/83
8. "Released GM Papers Show X-Car's Brakes Were a Concern Before Production Began," Wall Street Journal, 10/21/83
9. "GM Sued for \$1 Billion on X-cars," The Washington Post, 3/22/84
10. "Six GM executives sued on X-cars," Automotive News, 5/7/84
11. "GM To Engineers: Keep Opinions Out of Memos," Ward's Auto World, October 1984

## B. ATTORNEYS

## C. EXPERTS

## D. LAWSUITS

1. "Jury favors crash victim in X-car case," Detroit Free Press, 12/9/83
2. Complaint in the class action Alberti, et al. v. General Motors Corp., 1984
3. Alberti v. GM (now Barbarin v. GM), 600 F. Supp. 1026(D.D.C. 1985) (Memorandum and Order Denying GM Motion to Dismiss)

## E. INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

1. 44 selected GM internal memos on X-car brake lock-up
2. Index to over 100,000 GM internal memos submitted to NHTSA prior to U.S. v. GM
3. GM response to interrogatories in U.S. v. GM, Dec. 1983
4. Notice regarding availability of GM employee deposition taken by NHTSA in 1983

## F. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DOCUMENTS

### I. 1980-83 (Investigation Stage)

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to GM, information request, 5/27/80
2. Memo to NHTSA Enforcement from NHTSA Research & Development, 6/20/80; includes attachment of GM to NHTSA R&D letter, 5/16/80

3. GM to NHTSA , response to 5/27/80 letter, 7/21/80
4. NHTSA to GM , information request, 1/2/81
5. NHTSA to GM , information request, 3/4/81
6. GM to NHTSA , response to 1/2/81 letter, 3/11/81
7. NHTSA memo (handwritten) regarding call from GM on change in rear brake lining for 1981 X-cars, 4/9/81
8. GM to NHTSA , response to 3/4/81 letter, 5/5/81
9. NHTSA memo on meeting with GM, 6/10/81
10. NHTSA Engineering Analysis Final Report, 6/26/81
11. NHTSA to GM , request for recall, 7/6/81
12. GM to NHTSA , response to 7/6/81 letter, 7/8/81
13. NHTSA preliminary test results (engineer's handwritten notes), 7/9/81
14. GM Recall Campaign 81V-095 and Pontiac letter to zone offices on policy for replacing rear brake linings if recall fails to eliminate lock-up complaints, Aug. 1981
15. NHTSA, Final Test Report, June 1982
16. NHTSA memo on meeting with GM, 9/28/82
17. Center for Auto Safety (CAS) to NHTSA, petition to expand investigation and recall, 10/15/82; NHTSA to CAS, granting expansion of case to 1981-83 X-cars, 12/8/82
18. NHTSA to GM , information request, 12/17/82
19. NHTSA Peer Group Complaint Analysis, 1/6/83
20. NHTSA Phase I Investigative Report, Jan. 1983
21. NHTSA to GM , advising of initial defect determination, 1/14/83; NHTSA news release on same, 1/14/83
22. GM to NHTSA , response to 12/17/82 letter, including Attachments F (lawsuits) and H (parking brake changes), 1/31/83
23. GM to NHTSA , further reply to 12/17/82 letter, 2/9/83
24. GM to NHTSA , further reply to 12/17/82 letter, 2/11/83
25. NHTSA news release, "NHTSA and General Motors Working Out Details For X-Body Recall," 2/18/83
26. NHTSA to GM , Special Order and Document Request, 3/4/83; Modification to Order, 3/9/83
27. GM to NHTSA , response to 3/9/83 Special Order, with selected attachments, 3/25/83
28. NHTSA "Minute Memo" to file, list of X-car brake lock-up fatalities reported since initial defect finding, 3/25/83
29. GM to NHTSA , material from 1983 recall, 3/18/83

## II. 1983-85 (Litigation Stage)

1. U.S. v. General Motors Corporation, Complaint filed in U.S. District Court for District of Columbia, C.A. #83-2220, 8/3/83

2. CAS to NHTSA, petition to investigate and recall after market brake linings sold for use on X-cars, 8/29/83, with attachments
3. U.S. v. GM, government's Motion for Summary Judgment, 9/13/83
4. CAS to NHTSA, petition for recall of 1981-83 X-cars and 1982-83 A and J-cars, including attachment Q (service bulletin on caliper pin corrosion), 11/14/83
5. U.S. v. GM, GM's Motion for Summary Judgment, 11/30/83; Statement of Material Facts, 12/5/83
6. CAS to NHTSA, letter regarding delays in investigation of 1981-83 X-cars, 4/27/84
7. CAS to NHTSA, request investigation be expanded to include 1984-85 X-cars; NHTSA to CAS, request granted, 3/22/85

#### **G. CENTER FOR AUTO SAFETY**

1. Center for Auto Safety consumer advisory warning 1981-83 GM X-car owners of rear brake lock-up, 4/27/84

#### **H. CONGRESS**

1. Congressional Hearings, 3/2/83 and 8/5/83, selected materials
2. CAS testimony before House Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Consumer Affairs and Finance, hearing on X-car case, 3/2/85
3. "Department of Transportation's Investigation of Rear Brake Lockup Problems in 1980 X-Body Cars Should Have Been More Timely," General Accounting Office report, 8/5/83

#### **I. TECHNICAL MATERIALS**

1. European brake standard (portion)
2. Accident reconstruction report, William Haskett X-car fatality, A. Dahle, 9/18/81
3. "Vehicle Braking, Stability and Control," Society of Automotive Engineers paper, March 1983
4. Paper by J.E. Davidson, automotive consultant, regarding X-car's use of duo-servo rear drum brakes, August 1983
5. "Editor's Report," Motor, regarding aftermarket linings for X-cars, Aug. 1983
6. J.E. Davidson to NHTSA regarding proportioner calibration and front brake degradation, 3/30/84
7. Test results, Ministry of Transport, Canada, 1981 X-car, 1981-83