

Safety Research Report Index - GM Sudden Acceleration

A. BACKGROUND

1. "Inquiry on Auto Acceleration Expanded by U.S.," New York Times, 2/23/86.
2. "Cars That Speed Up Mysteriously Spark Bitter Dispute Over Cause," Wall Street Journal, 9/3/86.
3. "NHTSA Stonewall" & "NHTSA Accused of 'Do-Nothing' Investigations; 'Driver Error' Blamed for GM, Ford Runaway Cars," FuelLine, 11/86.
4. "Sudden Acceleration Puts NHTSA to 15-Year Test," Automotive News, 2/16/87.
5. "Runaway Cars," series of articles, Detroit News, 12/13/87-12/17/87.
6. "Runaway Cars?" Newsday, 7/26/88.
7. "1982-88 Caddys Called Runaways," Automotive News, 1/30/89.
8. "NHTSA Announces Results of 'Sudden Acceleration' Study," DOT Press Release, 3/7/89.
9. "Some Cars' Sudden Acceleration is Tied in U.S. Study to Pedal Misapplication," Wall Street Journal, 3/8/89.
10. "Sudden Acceleration Linked to Driver Pedal Misapplication," IIHS Status Report, 4/22/89.
11. "Car Plows into Park, Killing 3 & Injuring Dozens," New York Times, 4/24/92.
12. "Car Kills Woman At Market," Post-Standard, 5/15/92.
13. "Sudden Acceleration' May Be the Cause of Recent Accidents...," Corporate Crime Reporter, 5/25/92.
14. IMPACT & Lemon Times articles, 1984-1992.

B. ATTORNEYS

C. EXPERTS

D. NHTSA

1. List of sudden acceleration recalls.
2. Representative John Dingell to NHTSA re: sudden acceleration, 1/19/88; NHTSA response, 4/4/88. (with Attachment B- JAMA Announcement; Attachment E-Chronology of NHTSA's Actions)

E. TECHNICAL MATERIAL

1. R.H. Espeland et al., NHTSA, "Investigation Of Electromagnetic Interference Effects On Motor Vehicle Electronic Control And Safety Devices," 10/75.
2. R.L. Ruhl, Ruhl & Associates, "Sudden Acceleration Fact Sheet," circa 1987.
3. M. Gunnerhed, Swedish Defence Research Establishment, "Risk Assessment of Cruise Control," 5/88.
4. P. Marriner & J. Granery, Transport Canada, "Investigation of 'Sudden Acceleration' Incidents," 12/88.
5. K. Carlsen, et al., Boeing, "Sneak analysis, Boeing's Electrical Systems Engineering Quality Program Applied to the Automotive Industry," 8/89.
6. NHTSA, "Examination of Sudden Acceleration," 1/89.
7. W. Rosenbluth, Automotive Systems Analysis, "Pursuing Unwanted Acceleration - Myths, Vapors & Verification," 7/90.
8. B. Brown, Mechanical Damage Inspections, "Fuel Injection Systems," 12/4/91.

F. GM BACKGROUND

1. "U.S. Confirms GM Cars Probe; 400 Accidents Reported," San Francisco Chronicle, 12/28/83
2. "Probe of 'Runaway' Buick Accident is Urged," Detroit Free Press, 5/17/85
3. "U.S. Probe of GM Cars Includes '85 Models," Buffalo News, 9/12/85
4. "N.C. Case Just 1 Involving Stuck Accelerators, Group Says," Charlotte Observer, 10/1/85
5. "Probe Ends of GM Cars: Safety Agency Refutes Acceleration Problem," Washington Post, 8/16/86; "U.S. Reopens Probe of GM Cars: 2.3 Million Cars Involved in Inquiry of Sudden Acceleration," Washington Post, 12/31/86
6. "GM Takes the Defensive on Unintended Acceleration in its Cars," Boston Globe, 8/15/87
7. "GM Got Reports of H-Body Car Problems But Ruled Out Recall, Documents Show," Wall Street Journal, 1/19/88
8. "U.S. Safety Agency Widens GM Probe on Acceleration," Wall Street Journal, 5/25/88
9. "GM, Reversing Stance, Recalls 1.7 Million Cars," Wall Street Journal, 7/14/89
10. "GM to Recall 520,000 Autos Due to Defects," Wall Street Journal, 11/21/90
11. "S. Beach Street of Panic," Miami Herald, 5/16/93
12. "Phila. Driver, 83, Is Acquitted in a Crash That Killed 3," Philadelphia Inquirer, 6/29/93
13. "North Carolina Lawyer Lands \$1.3 Million Verdict Against General Motors, Convinces Jury That Car Accelerated On Its Own," Lawyers Weekly USA, 3/13/95.
14. Center for Auto Safety (CAS) **IMPACT** articles on GM sudden acceleration, 1983-89

G. NHTSA INVESTIGATIONS OF GM

1. EA78-110: **1973-86 GM Cars**
 - a. NHTSA to GM, (1971-78 GM), 10/25/78

- b. GM response (selected attachments), 12/18/78
 - c. NHTSA to GM, request for more information, 3/8/79
 - d. GM response (selected attachments), 4/17/79
 - e. NHTSA ODI memo regarding GM data confidentiality, 5/4/79
 - f. NHTSA to GM, request for additional information, 3/28/81
 - g. GM response (selected attachments), 5/15/81
 - h. CAS to NHTSA, investigation request (1977-82 GM cars), 12/27/83; NHTSA to CAS, denial, 2/7/84
 - i. CAS to NHTSA, petition for reconsideration and recall, 2/9/84; NHTSA to CAS, denial, 4/26/84
 - j. NHTSA to CAS, criticism of CAS consumer letter on GM sudden acceleration, 3/22/84; CAS response, 4/6/84
 - k. GM to NHTSA, additional death report, 5/31/84
 - l. CAS to DOT Secretary Dole, investigation request, 5/16/85
 - m. NHTSA response, 6/7/85
 - n. NHTSA to GM, (1973-85 cars), 9/16/85
 - o. Critique of EA 78-110, Polytechnic Engineering & Testing Services, 11/25/85
 - p. CAS to DOT Secretary Dole, 11/29/85
 - q. NHTSA response, 12/30/85; CAS further response, 1/22/86
 - r. GM response (with selected attachments), 1/20/86
 - s. NHTSA to CAS, response, 2/14/86
 - t. NHTSA closing report, 8/5/86
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2. EA79-044/79V-111: **1978-79 Cadillacs**
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 - b. GM response, 3/19/79
 - c. GM recall of vehicles (79V-111), 5/2/79
 - d. NHTSA to GM, request for more information, 6/7/79
 - e. GM response (selected attachments), 7/9/79
 - f. GM response, 7/11/79
3. EA80-109/PE85-051: **1979-82 Chevettes & T1000s**
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 - b. GM response, 10/22/80
 - c. Closing memo, 11/15/83
 - d. CAS to NHTSA, investigation request, 5/20/85
 - e. NHTSA to GM, 7/12/85
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 - g. Closing resume, 11/7/85
 - h. CAS to NHTSA, request to reopen investigation, 4/21/86
 - i. NHTSA response, 5/22/86
4. EA82-045: **1982 F-Cars(Camaros & Firebirds)**
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 9/30/82
 - c. GM response (selected attachments), 11/15/82
 - d. Closing memo, 8/6/84
5. PE85-30/EA87-007: **1982-85 J-Cars** (Cavalier/Skyhawk/Firenze/2000/Sunbird/Cimarron)
- a. CAS to NHTSA, investigation request, 2/21/84; NHTSA to CAS, denial, 6/8/84
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 - c. NHTSA to GM, 3/13/85
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 - e. GM response (selected attachments), 8/9/85
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 - g. CAS to NHTSA, petition to investigate & recall, letter to DOT Secretary Dole, 9/12/86
 - h. NHTSA response, 10/6/86
 - i. CAS response, 10/20/86
 - j. NHTSA to CAS, grant of petition, 12/22/86
 - k. GM response, 2/12/87
 - l. Closing report, 8/7/87
6. PE86-12/EA86-013/EA88-023/C89-001: **Misc. 1984-88 GM Cars**
- a. NHTSA to GM, (1980-84 Camaros), 12/6/85
 - b. GM response (selected attachments), 2/11/86
 - c. NHTSA resume upgrading PE86-12 to EA86-013, 5/1/86
 - d. NHTSA to GM, 6/30/86
 - e. GM response (selected attachments), 9/8/86
 - f. NHTSA to GM, request for more information, 1/30/87
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 - k. NHTSA press release announcing formal investigation & case resume, 3/16/89
 - l. NHTSA to GM, 4/21/89
 - m. GM to NHTSA, recall of 1.7 million 1984-88 cars, 6/14/89
 - n. NHTSA press release on recalls & index to investigation, 7/13/89
 - o. NHTSA to GM, closing memo, 1/16/90
 - p. Excerpts from NHTSA Technical Report on cruise control tests, 11/89
7. PE87-041/EA88-010/88 V-080/DP88-009/EA88-031: **1986-88 H & C-Cars**
- a. Summary of GM H-car test for cruise control susceptibility, 8/21/86
 - b. CAS to NHTSA, investigation request, 8/11/87
 - c. NHTSA to GM, 9/10/87
 - d. GM response, 11/10/87
 - e. Upgrade of PE 87-041 to Engineering Analysis (EA88-010), 11/23/87
 - f. NHTSA to CAS, response, 12/8/87
 - g. CAS to NHTSA, investigation request, 1/18/88
 - h. NHTSA to GM, request for more information, 1/29/88
 - i. CAS to NHTSA, possible GM criminal obstruction of investigation, and Flint Product Team, Product Problem Evaluation Committee withdrawal of recall recommendation, 2/25/88
 - j. GM to NHTSA, response, 2/25/88
 - k. NHTSA to GM, 3/7/88
 - l. GM to NHTSA, on why recall recommendation dropped, 4/6/88
 - m. GM to NHTSA, recall of 35,000 1987 C and H-cars for accelerator cable restriction, 5/6/88
 - n. Closing report EA88-010, 10/31/89
 - o. CAS to NHTSA, investigate request of 1982-88 Cadillacs with HT-4100 V8 engines not otherwise covered by EA 88-031, 1/23/89
 - p. CAS to NHTSA, Second Defect Petition with index pages (DP88-009), 1/18/88.
 - q. NHTSA response, 1/26/88.
 - r. NHTSA to GM, Request for information, 2/17/88.
 - s. NHTSA to CAS, further response, 3/30/88.
 - t. NHTSA to CAS, Granting of DP88-009 opening EA88-031, 4/25/88.
 - t. GM response, 5/19/88.
 - u. Closing report EA 88-031, 10/23/89
8. PE88-033: **1984 Pontiac Fieros**
- a. NHTSA to GM, 3/17/88
 - b. GM response, 4/27/88
 - c. Closing memo, 5/6/88
9. PE88-090: **1988 G-vans**
- a. NHTSA to GM, letter on cruise control response problems in 1988 G-vans, 8/11/88
 - b. GMC Truck Service Bulletin, June 1988
 - c. GM to NHTSA, reply to 8/11/88 letter, 9/20/88
 - d. GM Truck Service Bulletin updating June bulletin, August, 1988
 - e. NHTSA PE 88-090 closing resume, 10/28/88
10. PE89-097: **1988 Suburbans/Jimmys**
- a. Opening resume, 3/6/89
 - b. NHTSA to GM, 3/9/89
 - c. GMC Truck Service Bulletin, February 1989
 - d. GM response, 5/12/89
 - e. Closing resume, 5/31/89
11. PE90-014: **1984-87 Regals/Cutlas Supremes**
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 11/9/89
 - c. GM response, 1/5/90
 - d. Closing resume, 2/28/90
12. PE90-026: **1984-88 Suburbans**
- a. Opening resume, 12/12/89
 - b. NHTSA to GM, 1/2/90
 - c. GM response, 2/27/90
 - d. Closing resume, 4/9/90
13. PE90-058: **1990 Lumina**
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 3/21/90
 - c. GM response, 5/4/90
 - d. Closing resume, 6/20/90
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 6/20/90
 - c. GM response, 8/15/90
 - d. GM test of problematic part, 12/21/89
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 - d. NHTSA Closing resume, 4/16/91
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 10/9/91
 - c. GM response, 11/15/91
 - d. Memo upgrading PE91-131 to EA92-005, 1/30/92
 - e. NHTSA to GM, 3/19/92
 - f. GM Technical Service Bulletin describing throttle body carbon buildup, April 1987
 - g. GM response, 6/3/92 (with attachments)
 - h. NHTSA to GM, request for additional information, 7/21/92
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 - k. GM to NHTSA, additional response, 9/29/92
 - l. Closing resume and report, 1/29/93
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 - f. Closing resume and report, 5/28/93
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- a. Opening resume, 2/24/92
 - b. NHTSA to GM, 3/23/92
 - c. GM response, 6/4/92
 - d. GM Technical Service Bulletin describing alleged problem, April 1989
 - e. Memo upgrading PE92-021 to EA92-024, 6/26/92
 - f. NHTSA to GM, 10/14/92
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 - h. Inspection summary of a vehicle reported to have defect, 7/12/93
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 - k. GM to NHTSA, additional response, 9/23/93
 - l. Closing resume and report, 1/31/94
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 1/11/93
 - c. GM response, 3/3/93
 - d. Lawsuit against GM involving 1989 Caprice, 4/26/93
 - e. Memo upgrading PE92-020 to EA93-012, 5/12/93
 - f. NHTSA to GM, 5/21/93
 - g. GM response, 7/16/93
 - h. Closing resume and report, 6/30/94
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 - b. NHTSA to GM, 3/14/94
 - c. GM response (selected attachments), 4/23/94
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21. PE94-079/EA95-003: **Saturns**
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 - d. ODI resume upgrading to EA95-003, 2/23/95
 - e. NHTSA to GM, 5/10/95
 - f. GM response (selected attachments), 6/29/95

H. GM RECALLS

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2. Recall 69-0031: 1969-69 GM Equipped with 4 Barrel Quadra-Jet Carburetor
3. Recall 71-0235: 1965 Chevy II, Nova, Camrao, & C/P/G Trucks
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8. Recall 83V-077: 1980-83 Malibu & Impala, 1991 LeSabre
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14. Recall 88V-080: 1987 Electra, 98, Delta 88 & Bonneville
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16. Recall 90V-164: 1990 Riviera, Reatta, Toronado, Eldorado & Seville
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29. Recall 95V-082: 1994-95 Roadmaster, Fleetwood & Caprice
30. Recall 95V-139: 1995 Suburban, Tahoe, C3500HD, Sierra & Yukon

I. GM INTERNAL MATERIALS

1. Cadillac Division Product Problem Evaluation Committee meetings on unwanted acceleration [in vehicles from 1970, 1978-79]
2. Cadillac Division memos on Acceleration Pedal Extension recall of 1977-78 model year Cadillacs, 1979
3. GM shop manual excerpt on cruise control, 1979 Cadillac
4. Deposition of GM Staff Analysis Engineer Arthur R. Van Steelandt on cruise control, 10/1/81
5. GM shop manual excerpt on ECM (electronic control module), HT4100 Cadillac engine, 1982 and later models
6. GM dealer service bulletin on 1984 Custom Cruise III (electronic cruise control), 7/84
7. Memos on high idle complaints in J-cars investigated by GM Milford Proving Grounds and attributed to computer and electronic failures, 4/85 and 5/85
8. Memos on GM testing of cruise control in C-cars and H-cars, 10/28/86-8/27/87; survey of electromagnetic measurements from field studies, 6/2/87
9. Memos reporting unwanted acceleration incidents, Wentzville Assembly Plant, 4/30/86-10/15/87; Ohio fatality, 3/3/87; GM Company Car Garage, 4/23/87; Delco Remy Engineer, 6/8/87; and testing incident, 7/30/87
10. Memos on high number of 1986 H-car unwanted acceleration reports, 12/12/86; task forces identified, 3/18/87; requests for reports of unwanted acceleration, 3/20/87 to 4/1/87; unwanted acceleration status report, 3/26/87
11. Flint Product Team Problem Evaluation Committee memos and recommendation for recall for sticking throttle on 1986-87 H-Cars with 3.0L/3.8L engines, 8/31/87-9/87; withdrawal of recommendation, 10/23/87
12. Selected GM technical service bulletins, 1978-95
13. VIN code charts for GM cars and trucks, selected model years 1983-84, 1979 & 1975

J. GM TECHNICAL MATERIALS

1. Los Angeles police department to NHTSA, letter and report to dealer on sudden acceleration accident in 1982 Chevrolet Impala police car, 1/30/84
2. "Engineer's Inspection of Runaway Vehicle," report by private engineer William A. Servaas on cruise control (with attachments), 7/24/85
3. "Analysis of Data Related to Sudden Vehicle Acceleration Complaints," DOT (some attachments not included), 9/85

4. "Troubleshooting GM Computer Control Systems," Popular Mechanics, 2/86

K. LAWSUITS/ATTORNEYS

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3. List of cases resulting in jury awards for plaintiffs
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5. Article on Florida case with jury award of \$1.75 million, 12/5/81
6. Articles on Gibson v. General Motors case with \$1.4 million settlement, 2/17/86
7. Description of over 200 lawsuits against GM sent to NHTSA by GM, 1/30/86