



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-022
Date Opened: 07/18/2011
Investigator: Ali Motamedamin **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Oil Cooler Line Rupture

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: LOTUS CARS LTD
Products: 2005-2006 Lotus Elise
Population: 4,400 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The oil cooler line can rupture, causing an oil leak onto the wheel, tire, or brake components, or an oil leak in the engine compartment, presenting a fire hazard.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	17	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	2	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other: Field reports indicating oil cooler line end fitting failure.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Summary:

Consumers state that while driving smoke would appear in the interior of the vehicle, or an oil leak would become otherwise apparent. On further examination the consumer discovered an oil cooler line had failed causing oil to spray within the engine compartment area, and/or near one of the wheel or brake assemblies. One report alleges an engine compartment fire, while others allege a vehicle control concern due to oil leakage on a tire. ODI is opening this PE to further examine the issue.