



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 11-022  
**Date Opened:** 07/18/2011  
**Investigator:** Ali Motamedamin  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Engine Oil Cooler Line Detachment  
**Date Closed:** 11/03/2011  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** LOTUS CARS LTD  
**Products:** 2005-2006 Lotus Elise  
**Population:** 4,400

**Problem Description:** The engine oil cooler line can detach from its fittings, causing an oil leak onto the tires, brake components, or onto hot surfaces in the engine compartment.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	25	23	48
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	1	1	2
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	0	99	99

\*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Lotus Cars USA Inc. is conducting a safety recall 11V510.

### Summary:

On October 14, 2011, Lotus Cars USA Inc. notified the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) that it will conduct a safety recall (11V-510) to address concerns with engine oil cooler lines detaching from its crimped fitting on MY 2005-2006 Lotus Elise vehicles.

In its 573 report to ODI, Lotus indicated that they have identified instances where the oil cooler lines would detach from their fittings. Lotus attributes this condition to a majority of single supplier affected parts built from June 2004 to November 2006. Lotus states that the cause of the failure is an inadequate process by which the hose is crimped into its fitting by the supplier. In October 2006 the supplier implemented an improved crimping process.

Reports indicated that this condition can occur while driving or while the vehicle is stationary with the engine running. In cases where the failure occurred while driving, oil would be expelled under pressure and could come into contact with the tires and or brake friction surfaces, potentially causing a loss of braking or vehicle control. One crash and one vehicle fire were also reported with no injuries.

Additionally Lotus indicated that the same condition can occur in MY 2005-2006 Exige vehicles as well. These vehicles are also included in the recall. The action taken by Lotus is sufficient to resolve the issues raised by this investigation. This investigation is therefore closed.