



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-055
Prompted By: Shop Report
Date Opened: 08/03/2004
Principal Investigator: *Bob Young*
Subject: Rear Wheel Lockup

Manufacturer: American Suzuki Motor Corp.
Products: MY1994-1999 DR350SE Suzuki Dual-Purpose Motorcycles
Population: 10000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Displaced crankshaft counter-balancer indexing pin causes sudden and catastrophic engine failure with possible rear wheel lock-up.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	3	0	3

*Description Of Other: These reports involve the off-road version (DR350) that uses an identical counter-balancer pin to the DR350SE.

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Engineer: *Bob Young*

Date: 08/03/2004

Div. Chief: *Richard Boyd*

Date: 08/03/2004

Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter*

Date: 08/03/2004

Summary: A business specializing in servicing DR350's alleges that the counter-balancer gear-indexing pin is not properly retained and may become displaced. The displaced pin then causes catastrophic engine failure with possible rear-wheel lockup.

ODI is aware of four incidents involving this scenario. Three of these involved off-road-only DR350's and are out of NHTSA's jurisdiction. The fourth involved a Dual-Purpose (street and off-road) DR350SE. Both versions use the same counter-balancer indexing pin.

ODI opens this PE to gather more information about this subject.

*Wak
faxed on
8/3/04*