



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE07-048
Date Opened: 09/21/2007
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Wheel Failure

Manufacturer: Sevas Wheels
Products: Sevas S-10 Aftermarket wheels
Population: 5,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Wheel may fail and cause a loss of vehicle control. In addition, shrapnel from a failed wheel can puncture vehicle sheet metal and may cause secondary damage to other vehicle systems/components, including the fuel system.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Stephen McHenry *SMH* 9/24/07

Date: 09/21/2007

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 09/21/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/21/2007

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation has received one complaint alleging that a Sevas S-10 wheel experienced a catastrophic failure which caused a loss of control of the vehicle and stranded the owner and family on the side of the road. Furthermore, the complainant alleges that shrapnel from the failed wheel penetrated the trunk compartment damaging the battery, and shrapnel cut a vapor-liquid fuel separator allowing gasoline fumes to enter the cabin.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.