



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

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
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Investigation: PE 21-005
Date Opened: 02/25/2021
Investigator: Matthew Martens
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Fire Originating from 12V Battery Area
Reviewer: Gregory Magno

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor Corporation
Products: MY 2013-2018 RAV4
Population: 1,862,103 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The 12V battery B+ terminal shorts to the battery hold down frame which may result in the sudden loss of electrical power, vehicle stalling, and/or a fire originating in the engine compartment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	11	TBD	11
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	0	Confidential	Confidential

*Description of Other: EWR Field Report Data

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

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

Summary:

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received eleven complaints and additional Early Warning Report (EWR) data alleging a non-crash thermal event originating in the left side of the engine compartment of the fourth generation (XA40 platform, Model Year 2013-2018) Toyota RAV4 vehicles.

A majority of thermal events occurred during driving conditions, with four taking place with the ignition off. Drivers experienced stalling prior to the thermal event in half of the instances where the vehicle was in motion. The twelve-volt battery was identified as the area of origin in a majority of the incidents reviewed.

Improper battery installation or prior front end collision repair was a factor in the EWR Field Reports. Despite these external influences on the battery retaining method, the overall number of vehicle fire allegations with the battery as the area of origin is larger than its peer population.

This Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to better understand the contributing factors and frequency of vehicle fires originating from the battery region of the subject vehicles relative to peer vehicles.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at: <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> using the following complaint identification numbers: 11394683, 11378273, 11362502, 11348663, 11327143, 11317639,

11316999, 11315799, 11311546, 11271217, 11034782.