

McTevia Talks to CBS Affiliate About the Consumer Affect of the Latest Recall in the Auto Industry

To view the video clip of this story, go to <http://www.wkbn.com/mostpopular/story/Chevy-Cobalt-Under-Investigation/kIFHW-FJ8UGygtWOGztszA.csp>

Chevy Cobalt Under Investigation

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration last week opened a federal investigation to look into complaints about a power steering system problem in Chevrolet Cobalts.

An administration report said that over 1,100 complaints have been filed from consumers that revolve around the sudden loss of power steering in the vehicles manufactured between 2005 and 2009.

It also said 11 of the complaints the agency received resulted in crashes, including one that caused an injury. As many as 950,000 vehicles could be affected by the problem.

David Cole with the Center for Automotive research said such investigations are common when complaints start piling up.

"The purpose of NHTSA and working with the company is to determine the exact nature of the problem, see what the potential danger is that could occur, and then fix it," said Cole.

An investigation does not always mean a recall will follow, but the damage could already be done. Officials said the appearance of having a problem will effect consumers.

General Motors' only response was that the investigation is in its very early stages and that they are cooperating with the NHTSA to determine if there is an issue.

With the recent problems for Toyota, and now this for GM, are consumers going to get weary about buying cars?

"Segments of the actual production process itself are missed, and I guess nobody's perfect," said analyst Jim McTevia, managing member of McTevia and Associates. "I mean, they've yet to build the perfect car. So I think you're always going to have these kinds of problems."