



Examples of HEV fires

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Aachen, Germany*

KIA NIRO hybrid, class: HEV (1.32 kWh)

March 26, 2019 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11191530 ⊖

Components: UNKNOWN OR OTHER

NHTSA ID Number: 11191530
 Incident Date March 25, 2019
 Consumer Location CINCINNATI, OH
 Vehicle Identification Number KNDCC3LC6H5****

Summary of Complaint

CRASH	No	MY 2017 KIA NIRO CAUGHT ON FIRE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AS I WAS DRIVING DOWN THE INTERSTATE. NO COLLUSION WAS INVOLVED. I GOT A WARNING MESSAGE TO STOP THE ENGINE DUE TO A PROBLEM BEING DETECTED IN THE HYBRID SYSTEM. I PULLED OFF OF THE INTERSTATE DURING RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC AND NOTICED BLACK SMOKE COMING FROM UNDERNEATH MY HOOD. I THOUGHT THAT SOMETHING HAD JUST HAPPENED TO THE ENGINE. I STAYED IN THE CAR AND CALLED A TOW TRUCK AS I DID NOT WANT TO STAND ON THE SHOULDER OF THIS BUSY HIGHWAY. A MAN THEN JUMPS OUT OF HIS TRUCK AND STARTS RUNNING TOWARD ME YELLING AT ME TO GET OUT OF THE CAR THAT IT WAS ON FIRE. I GOT OUT, WE RAN DOWN THE SHOULDER AND WE STOOD WATCHING MY CAR BECOME ENGULFED IN FLAMES. I JUST BOUGHT THE CAR IN NOVEMBER 2018.
FIRE	Yes	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

1 Affected Product ▾

Vehicle

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
KIA	NIRO HYBRID	2017

June 20, 2018 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11102835 ⊖

Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, UNKNOWN OR OTHER

NHTSA ID Number: 11102835
 Incident Date June 17, 2018
 Consumer Location CONWAY, AR
 Vehicle Identification Number KND0B3LC285****

Summary of Complaint

CRASH	No	TL* THE CONTACT OWNED A 2017 KIA NIRO. WHILE THE VEHICLE WAS PARKED AT THE CONTACT'S RESIDENCE, A LOUD ABNORMAL NOISE WAS HEARD. THE CONTACT LOOKED OUTSIDE AND NOTICED THAT THE FRONT PASSENGER TURN SIGNAL LIGHT AND THE MIDDLE OF THE VEHICLE WERE ON FIRE. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS CALLED AND EXTINGUISHED THE FIRE. A POLICE REPORT WAS FILED. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STATED THAT THE BATTERY CAUSED THE FIRE AND DECLARED THE VEHICLE A TOTAL LOSS. THERE WERE NO INJURIES SUSTAINED. THE DEALER WAS NOT NOTIFIED. THE MANUFACTURER WAS CALLED AND THE CONTACT WAS AWAITING A CALL BACK. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS APPROXIMATELY 8,000.
FIRE	Yes	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

1 Affected Product ▾

Vehicle

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
KIA	NIRO	2017

KIA OPTIMA hybrid, class: HEV (1.4 kWh)

September 30, 2018 NHTSA ID NUMBER: 11132366 ⊖

Components: UNKNOWN OR OTHER

NHTSA ID Number: 11132366

Incident Date September 30, 2018

Consumer Location BROWNSBURG, IN

Vehicle Identification Number KNAGM4AD4D5****

Summary of Complaint

CRASH	No	WHILE I WAS DRIVING MY 2013 KIA OPTIMA HYBRID THIS MORNING. WHILE DRIVING, I SUDDENLY GOT A WARNING MESSAGE THAT SAID HYBRID SYSTEM FAILURE STOP SAFELY DO NOT DRIVE . I PULLED OVER AND SMELLED WHAT SEEMED TO BE FIRE, BUT SAW NOTHING. I CALLED MY FIANC TO LET HIM KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON AND THE CABIN STARTED FILLING WITH SMOKE . I JUMPED OUT OF THE CAR AND POPPED THE TRUNK. THERE WERE FLAMES SHOOTING OUT OF THE HYBRID SYSTEM . THE FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED, THE CAR IS NOW SITTING IN A TOW YARD. I TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF MY CAR. THERE IS NOTHING THAT I WOULD HAVE DONE OR COULD HAVE DONE TO CAUSE THIS.
FIRE	Yes	
INJURIES	0	
DEATHS	0	

1 Affected Product ▾

Vehicle

MAKE	MODEL	YEAR
KIA	OPTIMA HYBRID	2013

- There are many cases of fires of HEVs from various manufacturers during the past 10 years with still unknown root cause, under investigation by NHTSA
- Many of the owners indicate quick, life-threatening events
- Examples shown in this presentation relate to hybrid system and battery failure
- JRC's view is that testing of HEV REESS for thermal propagation is essential to ensure safety of the occupants.

Thank you



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