

CRASH DATA RESEARCH CENTER

Calspan Corporation
Buffalo, NY 14225

NOT-IN-TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE

CALSPAN REMOTE HYPERTHERMIA DEATH INVESTIGATION

SCI CASE NO: CA08022

VEHICLE: 1998 CHEVROLET LUMINA

LOCATION: NORTH CAROLINA

INCIDENT DATE: MAY 2008

Contract No. DTNH22-07-C-00043

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

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The crash investigation process is an inexact science which requires that physical evidence such as skid marks, vehicular damage measurements, and occupant contact points are coupled with the investigator's expert knowledge and experience of vehicle dynamics and occupant kinematics in order to determine the pre-crash, crash, and post-crash movements of involved vehicles and occupants.

Because each crash is a unique sequence of events, generalized conclusions cannot be made concerning the crashworthiness performance of the involved vehicle(s) or their safety systems.

TECHNICAL REPORT STANDARD TITLE PAGE

1. Report No. CA08022		2. Government Accession No.		3. Recipient's Catalog No.	
4. Title and Subtitle Not-In-Traffic Surveillance Calspan Remote Hyperthermia Death Investigation Vehicle: 1998 Chevrolet Lumina Location: State of North Carolina				5. Report Date: July 2008	
				6. Performing Organization Code	
7. Author(s) Crash Data Research Center				8. Performing Organization Report No.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Crash Data Research Center Calspan Corporation P.O. Box 400 Buffalo, New York 14225				10. Work Unit No. C00500.0000.0081	
				11. Contract or Grant No. DTNH22-07-C-00043	
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Washington, D.C. 20590				13. Type of Report and Period Covered Technical Report Incident Date: May 2008	
				14. Sponsoring Agency Code	
15. Supplementary Note This remote investigation focused on the circumstances surrounding the death of a 9-month-old female that was left unattended in a 1998 Chevrolet Lumina.					
16. Abstract This remote investigation focused on the circumstances surrounding the death of a 9-month-old female that was left unattended in a 1998 Chevrolet Lumina. The child was restrained within a Forward Facing Child Safety Seat (FFCSS) in the rear right position of the Chevrolet. The incident occurred over 3.5 hours in the driveway of the father's residence. At the time of the incident, the weather was reported as mostly cloudy and temperature ranged from 23.0 degrees C (73.4 degrees F) near the start of the incident to 22.0 degrees C (71.6 degrees F) at the end of the incident.					
17. Key Words Not-In-Traffic Surveillance Hyperthermia Death				18. Distribution Statement General Public	
19. Security Classif. (of this report) Unclassified		20. Security Classif. (of this page) Unclassified		21. No. of Pages 8	22. Price

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NOT-IN-TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE
CALSPAN REMOTE HYPERTHERMIA DEATH INVESTIGATION
SCI CASE NO: CA08022
VEHICLE: 1998 CHEVROLET LUMINA
LOCATION: NORTH CAROLINA
INCIDENT DATE: MAY 2008

BACKGROUND

This remote investigation focused on the circumstances surrounding the death of a 9-month-old female that was left unattended in a 1998 Chevrolet Lumina, **Figure 1**. The child was restrained within a Forward Facing Child Safety Seat (FFCSS) in the rear right position of the Chevrolet. The incident occurred over 3.5 hours in the driveway of the father's residence. At the time of the incident, the weather was reported as mostly cloudy and temperature ranged from 23.0 degrees C (73.4 degrees F) near the start of the incident to 22.0 degrees C (71.6 degrees F) at the end of the incident.



Figure 1. 1998 Chevrolet Lumina.

This incident was identified by NHTSA through an internet news article. The article was subsequently forwarded to the Calspan Special Crash Investigations (SCI) team for remote follow-up on June 4, 2008. The SCI team initiated telephone contact with the Police investigator on June 10, 2008. Details pertaining to this incident were forwarded to the Calspan SCI team on June 19, 2008. This hyperthermia death was reported as an Incident to the State Incident Based Reporting System.

SUMMARY

Vehicle Data

The 1998 Chevrolet Lumina LS was a four-door, front-wheel drive sedan powered by a 3.1 liter, V6 engine linked to a four-speed automatic transmission. The vehicle's exterior was black in color and the interior was gray with cloth upholstered seats. The vehicle was designed to carry six occupants. The side windows and backlight were AS2 glazing and did not contain after-market tint. The Lumina was not equipped with a sunroof. The Chevrolet's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and mileage were not documented by the investigating police agency.

Incident Data

This incident occurred during the afternoon hours of May 2008. The weather almanac for the incident date showed that morning hours were overcast and gave way to mostly cloudy skies. The incident occurred between 1410 and 1737 hours. The temperature ranged from 22.0 degrees C (71.6 degrees F) at 1401 hours, 23.0 degrees C (73.4 degrees F) at 1421 hours, and 22.0 degrees C (71.6 degrees F) at 1721 hours. The high temperature for the day reached 23.0 degrees C (73.4 degrees F). The vehicle was parked in a private driveway in an open area without shade, facing an unknown direction. Research conducted by General Motors and other independent sources; indicated that interior vehicle temperature rises approximately 4 degrees C

(40 degrees F) above ambient temperature over a two hour period. Based on the high temperature of the day which occurred near the beginning of the incident, the interior temperature of the vehicle was estimated to be between 38-49 degrees C (100-120 degrees F).

Pre-Incident

On the day of the incident, the 19-year-old driver of the Lumina (mother) drove to the daycare center where the 9-month-old child had been for part of the day. The mother picked up the child and placed her in a FFCSS in the rear right position of the Chevrolet (**Figure 2**). It's unknown if the child was restrained by the internal harness system or the vehicle's safety belt. The driver then drove the Chevrolet an unspecified distance to the residence of the child's father. During the commute, the child reportedly fell asleep in the vehicle.



Figure 2. Rear right seating position and FFCSS.

Incident

Upon arrival at the residence, the driver exited the vehicle and entered the dwelling. It is unknown if the driver forgot the child or if she intended to not wake her and leave her in the vehicle. The status of the windows is unknown. The child was found by the parents approximately 3.5 hours after being left in the vehicle. She was unresponsive and not breathing. Its unknown if either parent attempted to revive the child. Emergency medical personnel were summoned and responded to the incident site. Upon arrival, the child was placed in a ground ambulance and was transported to a local hospital.

Post-Incident

The mother and father of the child drove the 1998 Chevrolet Lumina to the hospital where it was photographed by the investigating police agency. Medical efforts were conducted on the child; however, she was pronounced deceased approximately two hours post-incident. An autopsy was performed and the cause of the death was determined to be hyperthermia.



1. Case Number

IDENTIFICATION

2. Date of Crash ____ / ____ / ____

3. Time of Crash _____

Code reported military time of crash.

NOTE: Midnight = 2400
Unknown = 9999

AMBIENT CONDITIONS

4. Light Conditions

- Daylight
- Dark
- Dark but lighted
- Dawn
- Dusk
- Unknown

5. Atmospheric Conditions
(Select all that apply)

- Clear-No adverse conditions
- Cloudy
- Rain
- Snow
- Fog, Smog, Smoke
- Sleet, Hail (freezing rain or drizzle)
- Blowing Snow
- Severe Crosswinds
- Blowing Sand, Soil, Dirt
- Other (specify):
- Unknown

6. Temperature

- Below 0 degrees Celsius (Below 32 F)
- 1-10 degrees Celsius (33-50 F)
- >10-24 degrees Celsius (51-75 F)
- Over 24 degrees Celsius (Over 75 F)
- Unknown

SCENE INFORMATION

7. Type of area in which crash occurred
(Select all that apply)

- Single family residential
- Row houses/townhouses
- Multi family housing
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Rural
- Unknown

8. Driver exterior sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Other (specify) _____
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Unknown
- No driver present

9. Crash location

- Driveway
- Parking Lot
- Sidewalk
- Alley
- Intersection of driveway and sidewalk
- Road / street
- Roadside / shoulder
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

10. Non motorist sightline obstructions
(Select all that apply)

- None
- Other vehicles
- Building
- Trees
- Shrubby
- Utility poles
- Signs
- Glare
- Other (specify) _____
- Unknown

11. Grade at parked position _____ +/- %

12. Estimated distance from parked position to impact

_____ m

13. Estimated speed at impact _____ +/- kmph

14. Grade at impact _____ +/- %

15. Estimated distance from impact to vehicle final rest

_____ m

Unknown = 999 Reference Items 11,12, 13, 14, 15



1. Case Number _____

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION

2. VIN _____

3. Model Year _____

4. Vehicle Make (specify): _____

5. Vehicle Model (specify): _____

GLAZING

Location	Presence (check)	Status (select)	Clarity (select)	Tint (check)	Glazing Obstructions (specify if present)
Windshield		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
LF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
RF		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
2 nd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
2 nd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
3 rd Left		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
3 rd Right		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
Left Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
Right Backlight		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
Roof		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		
Other (specify)		Fixed / Closed / Open / Partially Open / Unknown	Clear / Hazy / Very Dirty / Unknown		

TIRE DATA

6. Vehicle Manufacturer Recommended Tire Size _____

7. LF Tire Size _____

9. RF Tire Size _____

8. LR Tire Size _____

10. RR Tire Size _____

Seats / Head Restraint Data

Seat Position	Seat Type (Select from below)	Head Restraint (Check if available)	Head Restraint Adjustment (select)	NOTES:
Front Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
Front Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
2 nd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Left			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Middle			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	
3 rd Right			Full Down / Mid / Full Up	

Seat Type codes:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 0 = No seat or seat folded down | 8 = Pedestal (i.e. column supported) |
| 1 = Bucket | 9 = Box mounted (i.e. van type) |
| 2 = Bucket w/ folding back | 10= Other seat type (specify) |
| 3 = Bench | 99= Unknown seat type |
| 4 = Bench with folding back cushions | |
| 5 = Bench w/ folding back | |
| 6 = Split bench w/ separate back cushions | |
| 7 = Split bench w/ separate folding back | |

VEHICLE MEASUREMENTS

Clearance Heights	Measurements (all from ground, and in centimeters)	NOTES
Beltline		
Top of trunk/tailgate		
Bottom of bumper		
Trailer hitch (if applicable)		
Undercarriage		
Sway bar		
Axle		
Differential		
Other (specify):		
Sensor Height (if equipped)		
Camera Height (if equipped)		



1. Case Number

PARKING AID PRESENCE

2. Type of backing/parking aid present

- OEM camera
- OEM ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM combination camera-ultrasonic/radar sensor
- OEM Fresnel lens
- OEM interior mirrors
- Aftermarket camera
- Aftermarket ultrasonic/radar sensor
- Aftermarket combination camera-ultrasonic radar sensor
- Aftermarket Fresnel lens
- Aftermarket interior mirrors
- Other (specify): _____

CAMERA INFORMATION

Specify field of view measurements on diagram

3. System make/model

4. Video monitor type

- None present
- LCD (color)
- CRT (black & white)
- Unknown

5. Video display size _____ cm
(Diagonal)

6. Camera location

- None present
- Bumper
- License plate
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk
- Other (specify): _____

7. Video image quality under scene lighting conditions

- None present
- Good
- Average
- Poor (specify): _____
- Unknown

8. Was the camera functioning properly

- None present
- Yes
- No, poor image quality due to glare
- No, poor image quality due to atmospheric conditions
- No, camera turned off
- No, camera inoperable
- Unknown

ULTRASONIC/RADAR SENSOR

Specify object detection range on diagram

9. System make/model

10. Auditory warning illumination

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

11. Number of sensors _____

12. Sensor locations
(Select all that apply)

- No sensor present
- Left bumper
- Center bumper
- Right bumper
- License plate area
- Tailgate/Hatch/Trunk

13. Was warning system functioning properly

- No sensor present
- Yes, system alerted driver
- No, system did not alert driver
- No, system turned off
- No, system inoperable
- Unknown

14. Did driver react to warning

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

15. Did driver report common false warnings

- No sensor present
- Yes
- No
- Unknown



DRIVER FORM

1. Case Number

DRIVER PROFILE

2. Driver's Age _____
99 = Unknown

3. Driver's Sex Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Driver's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Driver's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Driver eyewear worn
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Eyeglasses
 Sunglasses
 Contacts
 Unknown

7. Driver vision deficiency condition
(Select all that apply)
 None
 Near sighted
 Far sighted
 Astigmatism
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

8. Non motorist's relationship to driver
 No relationship
 Child
 Grandchild
 Sibling
 Neighbor
 Friend
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

DRIVER ACTIONS

9. Driver approach to vehicle for entry
From left front
 From left
 From left rear
 From right rear
 From right front
 Circled vehicle
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
 Unknown

10. Driver entry interruption
(Select all that apply)
 Direct trip from building to vehicle
 Loaded items into vehicle
 Spoke with family
 Spoke with neighbors
 Spoke with contacted nonmotorist
 Return trip (backing into driveway/lot)
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

11. Purpose of backing
 Leaving parking space in parking lot
 Backing onto roadway from driveway
 Entering parking space in parking lot
 Backing into driveway from roadway
 Other (specify): _____
 N/A
Unknown

12. Where was driver going
Description:

13. Driver in a hurry
 Yes N/A
 No Unknown
 Unknown

14. How did driver check behind (rear area of vehicle) after vehicle entry
(Select all that apply)
 Did not look
 Checked mirrors
 Turned right and looked back
 Turned left and looked back
 Viewed Camera
 Listened for auditory/visual warning from system
 Other (specify): _____
N/A Unknown

15. Estimated time between vehicle entry and start of backing
 0-10 Seconds Over 60 Seconds
 11-30 Seconds N/A
 31-60 Seconds Unknown

16. What direction was the driver looking during backing maneuver
(*Select all that apply*)
- Straight ahead
 - Right
 - Left
 - Rearward
 - At object inside the car
 - At mirrors
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
17. Was the driver distracted during back up maneuver
(*Select all that apply*)
- No non-driving activities
 - External**
 - Looking at other vehicles
 - Looking at other non motorist
 - Looking at intended turn destination
 - External focus, not specified
 - Other external focus (specify): _____
 - Internal**
 - Looking at other occupant
 - Talking to passenger
 - Dialing phone
 - Talking on phone
 - Listening to radio/cd/portable playback device
 - Adjusting radio/cd player
 - Adjusting climate controls
 - Using a device/controls integral to vehicle (specify): _____
 - Reading/adjusting navigation system
 - Eating or drinking
 - Smoking related
 - Retrieving fallen object (specify): _____
 - Internal focus, not specified
 - Focused on other internal object (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
18. Driver avoidance actions prior to impact
(*Select all that apply*)
- None
 - Braking
 - Steering left
 - Steering right
 - Accelerating
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
19. Did driver see struck non motorist prior to impact
(*Select all that apply*)
- No, never saw non motorist
 - Saw non motorist prior to entering vehicle
 - Saw non motorist after entering vehicle
 - Other (specify): _____
 - N/A
 - Unknown
20. Est time between start of backing and impact
- <2 or = 1 second
 - 2-5 seconds
 - 6-10 seconds
 - > 10 seconds
 - N/A
 - Unknown
21. Driver interior sightline obstructions
(*Select all that apply*)
- Pillar
 - Headrest
 - Cargo
 - Other occupant
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Unknown
 - None
22. Recent experience driving this vehicle
- More than 10 times the last three months
 - 6-10 times the last three months
 - 2-5 times the last three months
 - Less than 2 times the last three months
 - First time driving this vehicle
 - N/A
 - Unknown
23. Frequency of driving in this parking lot/driveway
- Daily
 - Weekly
 - Several times a month
 - Monthly
 - Rarely
 - First time in lot/driveway
 - N/A
 - Unknown
24. Driver Impairment
(*Select all that apply*)
- No drugs or alcohol present
 - Alcohol present (specify BAC): _____
 - Drugs present (specify): _____
 - Unknown
25. Source of alcohol/drug results
- Police reported
 - Medical record
 - Other (specify) _____
 - Not Tested
 - Unknown if tested



Non Motorist Form

1. Case Number

NON-MOTORIST PROFILE

2. Non-motorist's Age _____ Months
_____ Years
99 = Unknown

3. Non-motorist's Sex
 Male
 Female
 Unknown

4. Non-motorist's Height _____ cm
999 = Unknown

5. Non-motorist's Weight _____ kg
999 = Unknown

6. Medical outcome
 Not injured
 ER only
 Hospitalized 1-4 days
 Hospitalized 5 days or more
 Treatment later
 Fatal
 Unknown

7. Source of most severe injury
 Bumper
 Tire
 Undercarriage
 Other Specify: _____
 Ground
 N/A
 Unknown

8. Non-motorist impairment
(Select all that apply)
 No drugs or alcohol present
 Positive for alcohol (specify BAC): _____
 Positive for drugs (specify): _____
 Unknown

9. Source of alcohol/drug results
 Police reported
 Medical Report
 Other (specify) _____
 Not Tested
 Unknown if tested

NON-MOTORIST ACTIONS

10. Non-motorist attitude
 Standing
 Bending at waist
 Sitting
 Crouching
 Kneeling
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify) _____
 Unknown

11. Non-motorist motion
 Not moving
 Walking slowly
 Walking rapidly
 Running or jogging
 Skipping/Hopping/Jumping
 Falling/Stumbling/Rising
 On skates/skateboard
 On bike/scooter
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

12. Non-motorist approach relative to rear of vehicle
 Stationary
 From left
 From right
 From behind
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

13. Non-motorist first avoidance action
 No avoidance actions
 Stopped
 Accelerated pace
 Ran away (along vehicle path)
 Jumped
 Turned away from vehicle
 Turned toward vehicle and braced
 Dove or fell away from vehicle
 Other (specify): _____
 Unknown

14. Non-motorist primary focus of attention
 Striking vehicle
 Play object
 Person
 Surrounding traffic
 Animal
 Handheld electronic (phone, MP3 player, etc.)
 Other Object (specify) _____
 Unknown

15. Were any other Non-motorists present?
(Select all that apply)
 Alone
 One adult present
 One other child present
 Multiple adults present
 Multiple children present
 Unknown

NON MOTORIST CLOTHING

NOTES:

- Specify Color, Fabric and Texture/Weight for outermost layer only
- Indicate "NONE" if applicable
- Available codes:

	<u>Colors</u>		<u>Fabrics</u>		<u>Textures</u>		<u>Weights</u>
Black	Charcoal gray		Natural		Soft		Heavy
Lt gray/silver	Brown		Synthetic		Slick		Medium
Gold/tan	Purple		Blend		Coarse		Light
Dark blue	Light blue						
Dark green	Light green						
Maroon	Red						
Orange	Yellow						
White	Other (specify)						

	Clothing	Color	Fabric	Texture	Weight
H E A D W E A R	Hat				
	Helmet				
	Hood				
	Other (specify): _____				
U P P E R B O D Y	Short Sleeve				
	Long Sleeve				
	Light Jacket				
	Heavy Jacket				
	Other (Specify): _____				
L O W E R B O D Y	Shorts				
	Pants				
	Shoes				
	Other (specify): _____				