

## TOTAL RECALL FOR TOYOTA?



As if the auto industry weren't dealing with enough in today's economy, now Toyota faces what seems more like a TOTAL RECALL than a TOYOTA RECALL. Eight of Toyota's top selling models are part of the nation wide safety recall campaign, and there maybe more to come. Recent talks discuss whether to recall the popular Toyota and Lexus hybrid models, such as the Prius. The models that are currently under recall include the 2009-10 RAV4, 2009-10 Corolla, 2007-10 Camry, 2009-10 Matrix hatchback, 2005-10 Avalon large sedan, 2010 Highlander crossover, 2007-10 Tundra pickup and the 2008-10 Sequoia large SUV.

In recent weeks these vehicles were temporarily removed from dealership show rooms across the country, Europe and Japan, leaving Toyota with little inventory to sell. According to reports, Fort Myers Toyota had as much as 50% of its inventory under the recall. That left them with few available vehicles to sell, in an already depressed automobile industry. To make matters worse, on February 1, 2010, production of vehicles at six car-assembly plants across the country were closed until a solution could be found.

The cause of the recall and blame were originally placed on faulty floormats that would slip and get caught under the accelerator. However, the problem is much more serious. The accelerator in these model vehicles are sticking and causing unintended acceleration, resulting in often fatal accidents. In the Prius, reports of faulty brakes have been reported, causing concern of yet another Toyota recall.

Reports of serious and fatal crashes involving Toyota models began as far back as a couple years ago according to some reports. In 2007, a man died when his car was struck from behind by a Toyota traveling at a speed of up to 120 mph. This was allegedly due to a faulty accelerator. Toyota reached a settlement with his widow in 2008. Recent reports say there may have been up to 18 accidents due to faulty accelerators in these select Toyota models. A more recent report claims a family of 4 died in August 2009 when their Toyota accelerated out of control and drove off into a lake.

Is Toyota at fault? Is CTS, the company that manufactured the accelerator at fault? Did Toyota react quickly and efficiently enough to alert consumers of the faulty accelerators, brakes or floormats? There are many questions still unanswered.

Bernardo Injury Law urges anyone with these make and model vehicles to please take this recall seriously. The first priority is the safety of you and your loved ones. Some reports suggest not driving the vehicles under recall at all, while others say there is no need for alarm. The CEO of Toyota, and local dealership management have reported their confidence in the safety of their vehicles, citing that their own family members are still currently driving Toyota vehicles. But, what if? Is it really worth the risk?

My family's safety does come first. Be cautious and don't take unnecessary chances. My suggestion is to not drive these vehicles until the faulty accelerator or brake have been repaired or replaced.

If you own one of the Toyota models under recall, and have been in an accident resulting in injury, please contact a personal injury attorney right

away to find out if you have the right to recovery for your injuries. For more information visit [injuryinfo.org](http://injuryinfo.org) or call 239. 332.3000.



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