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Sent: 5/4/2009 11:32 AM

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Subject: BuzzAlert: 2006 Prius owner reports unintended acceleration.

Hello,

On May 2, 2009, the owner of a 2006 Prius begins a new discussion, recounting experience of a potential unintended acceleration issue with the vehicle, prompting significant back-and-forth on Priuschat.com. Owners and enthusiasts discuss this owner's problem as well as recent press that has called the Prius unintended acceleration issue into question. While some Prius fans or owners are dismissive or defensive, others note that the Prius has a significant degree of technology or electronics and that it may not be out of the question for such issues to arise. The original owner expresses interest in a response from Toyota with respect to this potential issue. In two days, there are 42 posts in this discussion thread, a fairly significant number for that amount of time on Priuschat.com.

Original Post:

"My 2006 Prius (pkg 8) has on several occasions decided to accelerate on its own. This always happens when the car is stopped. Lifting my foot from the brake causes the car to accelerate as fast as it can. Up until yesterday I wasn't totally sure my senses weren't lying. I had read a couple of articles where people complained of this problem. In the earlier cases, I was stopped at a flow control light on a freeway ramp, so the rapid acceleration wasn't a problem and when I stepped on the gas, it stopped.

Yesterday I was on a surface street and stopped at a light. When I gently lifted my foot from the brake to start the car rolling, the car revved the ICE and acted as though I had floored the accelerator (my foot was still on the brake and I hadn't released full pressure yet. When I pushed hard on the brake, the car stopped and the ICE stopped revving, repeating gently easing up on the brake made the same thing happen again.

Needless to say, I was getting concerned. I tried shifting to neutral (no deal) and finally turned the cruise control on and then off (it was off). This stopped the acceleration. I have made a service appointment, but the dealer claims they never heard of this problem before.

I did some research on the Web (search Prius unintended acceleration incidents) and discovered this has happened more than a few times for others. According to my reading, Toyota has denied the problem and claimed the floor mat was pressing on the gas. In my case, the first thing I did is check my mat (heavy rubber that never moves) and it was safely tucked under the pedals.

If there is a fix for this, I haven't seen mention of it. I did report it to the NHTSA. I will report on the dealer's response. In the meantime be aware this has been happening on 2004 - 2008 cars. Some of the reports claim it is a cruise control issue. Who knows?

I will be most interested to see how Toyota responds."
Priuschat.com, May 2, 2009, author: nylon

Direct Link to Priuschat.com: <http://priuschat.com/forums/care-maintenance-troubleshooting/61226-my-prius-tried-kill-me-unintended-acceleration.html>

Please note that I have included QA Body on this alert in addition to QA Powertrain, due to the brief floor mats reference.

Regards,

Joe Colacurcio

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