

Toyota Recalls 3.8 Million Vehicles in the United States, the Company's Largest Ever U.s. Recall.

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009, the Toyota Motor Company recalled 3.8 million vehicles in the United States to address problems with a removable floor mat that could interfere with the vehicle's accelerator, causing it to stick and leading to a crash. The recall affects Camrys, Avalons, Priuses, Tacomas, Tundras, Lexus ES 350, and Lexus IS 250 and IS 350. The recall involves such popular models as the Toyota Camry, the top selling passenger car in America and the Toyota Prius, the best selling gas/electric hybrid. Toyota announced that it is working with officials from NHTSA to find a remedy to fix the problem and will notify owners as early as next week. Toyota noted that owners should take out the removable floor mat on the driver's side and not replace it. A corporate representative stated "A stuck open accelerator may result in very high vehicle speeds and make it difficult to stop a vehicle and cause a crash and serious injuries or death." NHTSA has received reports of approximately 102 incidents in which the accelerator may have become stuck on Toyota motor vehicles involved. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood stated "This is an urgent matter" and "for everyone's sake we strongly urge owners of these vehicles to remove mats or other obstacles that could lead to unintended acceleration. Previously Toyota's largest U.S. recall was for approximately 900,000 vehicles in 2005 to fix a steering issue.