2017-2018MY Optima Hybrid (HEV) & Optima Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV)
Engine Compartment Fire
Basis of Safety Recall Determination 573.6(c)(6)

August 25, 2021	Kia Corporation (Kia HQ) informs Kia North America (Kia NA) Safety Office that Hyundai Motor America identified some engine hole in block (HIB) fires in some Hyundai vehicles equipped with 2.0L Nu GDI engines produced at Hyundai engine plant in Korea.
September 7— September 29, 2021	Kia NA Safety Office conducts review of its field data for 2017-2020MY Optima HEV/PHEV vehicles equipped with 2.0L Nu GDI engines for fire related incidents due to hole in block (HIB) and identifies HIB fires in five (5) 2017MY Optima and one (1) 2018MY Optima vehicles. Kia NA Safety Office conducts further evaluation of the 6 fire incidents. Evaluation reveals all 6 fire incident vehicles show maintenance gaps exceeding Kia's oil change recommendation schedule. Kia NA Safety Office concludes existence of a direct correlation between insufficient oil maintenance and subsequent HIB fire incidents. Kia HQ also searched for any engine manufacturing or design changes that may contribute to HIB fires and confirmed there were none. Kia NA Safety Office contacts NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) at end of September to schedule a meeting to discuss its field data evaluation results.
October 6, 2021	Kia NA Safety Office presents its engine fire field data analysis and proposed field action plan to ODI. During meeting ODI requests additional information pertaining to HIB incidents without fire.
October 14, 2021	Kia NA Safety Office submits its analysis of the requested HIB incidents without fire to ODI.
October 22, 2021	ODI presents its analysis and requests Kia conduct a safety recall for the 2017-2018MY Optima HEV/PHEV based on vehicle field performance. Kia NA Safety Office confirms ODI's safety recall request is not based on a design or manufacturing defect. Kia NA Safety Office advises ODI it will take ODI's request under consideration.
October 25, 2021	Kia NA decides to conduct safety recall as a preventative measure to mitigate unreasonable fire risk due to engine damage. No fatalities, injuries, or crashes. Six (6) HIB fires.