



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 03-056
Prompted By: Owner Notification Letter
Date Opened: 12/08/2003
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Under-Rated Electrical Overload Fuse

Manufacturer: Western Recreational Vehicles, Inc.
Products: 1998-2003 Western RV - Alpine Motor Homes
Population: 500

Problem Description: A Ground fuse fails, resulting in a disabled vehicle and the loss of all electrical power.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 12/08/2003

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 12/08/2003

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/08/2003

Summary: In late November 2003, Western RV mailed owners a letter advising them of an electrical problem that could cause the motor home to lose all electrical power and could cause the engine to cease running or stall. The letter advised the owners to replace the ground fuse with one that was provided in the owner letter. These vehicles are class "a" 40-foot motor homes.

ODI is concerned that a vehicle that experiences this failure could be disabled, blocking a lane, without lights. This scenario places the vehicle and occupants at an increased risk for a crash.

Historically, this type of defect has been the subject of numerous safety recalls.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to understand Western's rationale for conducting a non-safety owner notification program in lieu of a safety recall campaign.

*mk
fixed at
12/9/03*