



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-013
Prompted By: VOQ
Date Opened: 02/02/2004
Principal Investigator: TOM BOWMAN
Subject: CRACKS IN FORE-AFT FRAME MEMBERS

Manufacturer: FOREST RIVER, INC.
Products: 1999 FOREST RIVER FIFTH WHEEL TRAILERS
Population: 1000

Problem Description: Cracks may develop in the fore-aft frame rail at the base of the transverse frame cross members proximate to the spring mounting pillars.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	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: OPEN A PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

Engineer: Thomas Bowman *TB*

Date: 02/02/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 02/02/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/02/2004

Summary: ODI has received two complaints in which owners of 1999 Forest River fifth wheel trailers have detected cracks in the fore-aft frame members of their vehicles. One owner also observed that a section of the transverse frame had been cut and removed from the vehicle ostensibly when the vehicle was being manufactured to provide clearance for a water drainpipe.

ODI is concerned that a cracked or fractured frame may affect vehicle control. ODI is also concerned that cracks may propagate and allow the frame to fracture or buckle which could cause or contribute to a vehicle crash.

*ink
faxed
on
2/3/04*