



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-071
Prompted By: Fleet Visit
Date Opened: 10/13/2004
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Deteriorating Exhaust Thermal Blanket

Manufacturer: Orion Bus Industries, Inc.
Products: 2002-2004 Orion VII Buses
Population: 1500 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: Deteriorating thermal blankets offer no protection from high exhaust system temperature within the engine compartment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
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: Both incidents were found during a fleet visit.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM*
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: During a visit to a transit fleet, ODI observed an Orion VII bus that had experienced an engine compartment fire. Further examination of the bus revealed that the thermal insulation blankets had deteriorated and may have been responsible for the thermal event. Upon inspecting several other buses, many of the exhaust blankets appear to be prematurely deteriorating, leaving large openings between the blanket connections, thereby allowing high exhaust temperatures to radiate into the engine compartment and onto engine hoses, lines, and components. This type of failure could have detrimental consequences, depending on what vehicle system is damaged when exposed to hot exhaust gases or hot exhaust components.

A PE is opened to further study this issue.

*favor
SM
10/14/04*