



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-015

Date Opened: 03/17/2005

Date Closed: 05/11/2005

Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka

Subject: Unprotected Electrical System

Manufacturer: Road Rescue, Inc.
Products: Road Rescue inc; 2002-2005 Ambulances
Population: 216

Problem Description: The circuit that provides electrical power to the patient compartment may be inadequately protected against electrical shorts and overloads.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	1	2	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:

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Road Rescue has filed a safety recall that resolves this issue. The campaign number is 05V-153.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 05/11/2005

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 05/11/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/11/2005

Summary: This investigation was opened after a New York ambulance fleet notified ODI that they had experienced an electrical fire, which filled the patient's compartment with smoke. Allegedly, the fire started in the distribution panel which supplies electrical power to operate the lights and equipment in the patient's compartment. Highly flammable materials, such as oxygen bottles are stored and used in the patient compartment of these vehicles. ODI contacted the manufacturer and they reported a second thermal event concerning the same electrical circuit.

During the course of the investigation, Road Rescue discovered that the electrical system was not properly protected against a short circuit and the fuses would need to be changed to a fuse that requires a manual reset, instead of the automatic resetting type fuse currently installed in the subject vehicles. Road Rescue has filed a safety recall to replace the fuses on all ambulances utilizing the self-resetting style fuse.

A copy of the recall is attached and this action resolves the fire concern raised by this investigation. Hence, this investigation is closed.