



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-067

Date Opened: 12/08/2005

Date Closed: 03/16/2006

Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour

Subject: Suspension-Frame Cracks

Manufacturer: Heil Trailer International

Products: 1999-2006 Heil Pull Tanker Trailers

Population: 87

Problem Description: Trailers equipped with air ride suspension may develop cracks in the forward dolly frame assembly, which may result in a trailer separation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	2	2	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	24	24

*Description of Other: Warranty for frame repair in response to Heil's previous owner notification program.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed in response to Heil's submission of recall 06V-045, copy attached.

Engineer: Nate Seymour

Date: 03/16/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 03/16/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/16/2006

Summary: ODI determined that two subject trailers experienced complete frame separations. Heil had initiated an owner notification program, which paid for the complete repair of all subject trailers. Given that the subject trailers were fuel tankers, ODI was concerned about Heil's decision to conduct a field action in lieu of a safety recall.

After reviewing Heil's prior recall history and discussing the failures with involved fleets, ODI contacted Heil to discuss the matter. During our discussion, the safety risks associated with a 6,000 gallon gasoline tanker separating from the tow bar mechanism were discussed. As a result, Heil decided to conduct a safety recall.

GV
9/12/06