



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-005
Date Opened: 02/02/2005
Principal Investigator: Lee Strickland
Subject: Electric Seat Warmer Overheats/Burns

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Products: 2003 Mercedes Benz ML320
Population: 21,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Driver side electric seat warmer may overheat and burn the seat fabric, and potentially inflict burn injury to the seated occupant.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	0	3
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	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: Leamon H. Strickland

Date: 02/02/2005

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper *TZC*

Date: 02/02/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/02/2005

Summary:

ODI has received complaints from three (3) consumers who allege that the driver-side electric powered seat warmer may overheat, burn the seat cover and possibly inflict burn injury to the driver. One complaint alleged that a second-degree burn was sustained by the driver.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess this matter.

TZC
2-4-05