



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-012
Date Opened: 03/08/2006
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Electrical Panel Fires

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC.
products: 2004-2006 Thomas Conventional School Buses
Population: 2500 (estimated)

Problem Description: Electrical panel fires result in vehicle stalls and certain electrical safety devices becoming inoperative.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	0	4
Crashes/Fires:	4	0	4
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: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 03/08/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 03/08/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/08/2006

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has become aware of four school bus fires that started in the side mounted electrical fuse panel on certain Thomas Built school buses. Fleet owners have reported the bus interior fills with smoke, certain electrical devices become inoperative, and the bus will stall.

The four buses involved are from three different school bus districts.

This investigation is opened for further technical evaluation.

EM 4.106 3/9/06

59