



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-036
Date Opened: 09/07/2006
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Wheel Separation / Axle Fracture

Manufacturer: Starcraft Company
Products: Starcraft Tandem Axle RV MY 2006
Population: 180 (ESTIMATED)

Problem Description: Axle center may fracture at Spindle Attachment Weld

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	2	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
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: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 09/07/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 09/07/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/07/2006

Summary: On September 1, 2006, in response to ODI's request, Lippert components, INC. identified 15 incidents in which an axle had allegedly completely or partially fractured at or near the spindle weld. In certain incidents, the affected wheel separated from the vehicle.

Two of the incidents that Lippert components, inc. identified reportedly had occurred in a tandem-axle recreational vehicle manufactured by Starcraft RV.

A wheel separation poses a risk since the separated wheel may strike pedestrians and/or vehicles being operated in proximity to the wheel separation.

GN
9/11/06