



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-047
Date Opened: 10/24/2006
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour
Subject: Tow Hitch Failure

Manufacturer: Monaco Coach Corporation
Products: 2002 Holiday Rambler Vacationer
Population: 567

Problem Description: The vehicle frame may split where the Tow Hitch attaches resulting in a loss of load carrying capability or separation of the towed unit.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	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: A preliminary evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Nate Seymour *NS*
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI was made aware of this alleged defect through a congressional inquiry. Further investigation confirmed 2 failures and additional reports posted on the internet.

NHTSA has received numerous recalls over the last 5 years for trailer hitch related issues. ODI is concerned that the hitch used on the subject vehicle may be inadequate. However, ODI recognizes that owners may overload equipment and therefore, a comprehensive assessment is appropriate.

ODI will conduct an investigation to determine whether the reported failures were the result of overloading due to excessive hitch/tongue weight or whether the parts are failing as the result of a material or manufacturing deficiency.

GV
10/24/06