



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-049

Date Opened: 11/09/2006

Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka

Subject: Wheelchair Lift w/Switch Disabled

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC

Products: Thomas built 2006-07 class "A" School Buses w/Wheelchair Lifts

Population: 1000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Wheel Chair Interlock System Disabled

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	31	0	31
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
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: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 11/09/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *RB*

Date: 11/09/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/09/2006

Summary: ODI was contacted by a school bus fleet alleging that they had discovered numerous buses with "Zip-Ties" Securing the wheelchair door micro-switch in the closed position. This will defeat the safety interlock system that prevents the bus from being moved unless the wheelchair lift is in the fully stowed position. ODI is aware of one reported crash related to this issue.

ODI is opening this PE to collect additional information and evaluate the matter.

GM
11/9/06