



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-043
Date Opened: 08/14/2007 Date Closed: 12/17/2007
Principal Investigator: Peter Kivett
Subject: 400 AMP Primary Fuse Corrosion

Manufacturer: Wheeled Coach Industries
Products: 2004-07 Wheeled Coach Ambulances on Ford Chassis
Population: 1006

Problem Description: Corrosion to the primary fuse block circuit may result in a loss of power to the interior/exterior lights and equipment in the patient compartment of the ambulance.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	12	12
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	51	51

*Description of Other: Warranty Reports

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Wheeled Coach has submitted a Safety Recall 07V-569 to address the problem.

Engineer: Peter Kivett

Date: 12/17/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 12/17/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/17/2007

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation on Wheeled Coach out of concern about a loss of power to the interior/exterior lights (including warning lights) and equipment in the patient area of the ambulance.

On April 20, 2007 a corrective action request was issued by Wheel Coach concerning corrosion to the subject vehicles 400 AMP Primary Fuse Circuit. Failure of this circuit results in a loss of power to emergency equipment inside the ambulance body, as well as loss of the vehicle's emergency lights. ODI was concerned that the April 2007 corrective action request was inadequate. ODI opened this investigation and discovered that all of the warranty claims and complaints were located in "Salt-Belt" states. The corrosion to the fuse block is attributed to road salt chemicals used during inclement weather.

ODI believes voltage to the patient transport modular is inherently critical to the ambulance's mission. Furthermore, ODI believes this loss of power represents an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety for this application, as the mission of the vehicle (ambulance) is compromised and therefore, a safety recall remedy is appropriate. With Wheeled Coach's submittal of a "573" letter, recalling all ambulances in 21 salt belt states (plus Washington DC) this investigation is closed. ODI will continue to monitor non-salt belt states for any indication that the problem is spreading to those regions.