



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-029
Date Opened: 06/20/2007
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Side Panel Fire

Manufacturer: Thomas Built Buses, INC.
Products: 2004-2005 MPV-ER Thomas Built School Buses
Population: 1,500 (Estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
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 PE is opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd **RB**
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has become aware of two school bus fires that started in the side mounted electrical fuse panel on certain Thomas Built school buses. The fleet owner has reported the bus interior fills with smoke, certain electrical devices become inoperative, and the bus will stall. The two buses involved have consecutive VIN numbers. These buses are not included in a previous electrical panel recall (06V-136) that dealt with a defective power distribution module (PDM) issue. THIS problem appears to have a different causation factor.