



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-030
Date Opened: 04/25/2008
Date Closed: 09/09/2008
Principal Investigator: Lee Strickland
Subject: Seat Back Warmer Overheats/Burns

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
Products: 2007 Mercedes-Benz M-Class
Population: 19,077

Problem Description: Driver-side seat warmer may overheat/burn through the cushion and upholstery of the driver-side seat back/side bolster, with the potential for burn injury or fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	3	6
Crashes/Fires:	2	2	4
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	16	16

*Description of other: Warranty claims filed by dealers.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

Engineer: Lee Strickland

Date: 09/09/2008

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 09/09/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/09/2008

Summary: This Preliminary Evaluation investigation concerns the seat back warmer installed in the subject vehicles built through May 2007, equipped with the "CTX" Carbotex seat warmer design. The data disclose few complaints and warranty reports concerning this issue. None of the "fire" reports involved open flame, but were thermal incidents in which the seat cushion sustained discoloration or a hole burned in the seat cover. The reported injury appeared to be minor. The subject seat warmer design was also installed in MY 2006 M-Class vehicles and those data also show few incidents.

A safety defect trend has not been identified. This investigation has been closed.