



ODI RESUME

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Products: 2007 Mercedes Benz ML-Class
Population: 34,500 (estimated)

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:	2		
Crashes/Fires:	2		
Injury Incidents:	1		
# Injuries:	1		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other:	0		

Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Leamon H. Strickland *LS*

Date: 04/25/2008

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 04/25/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/25/2008

Summary:

ODI has received complaints from two consumers who allege that the electric seat warmer burned through the fabric of the seat cover and produced a burn hole of approximately two to three inches in diameter. In each case the damage occurred on the outboard side of the driver's seat back/bolster area. Smoldering of the seat pad and upholstery was reported in both cases and one minor burn injury was reported.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the matter.