



ODI RESUME

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

Investigation: PE 08-038
Date Opened: 06/04/2008
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Hydraulic Brake Hose Chafing Firewall

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
Products: 2007-2008 Blue Bird Vision School Bus
Population: 2,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Hydraulic brake hoses are chafing and abrading against the bus body/fire wall

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8	0	8
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	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

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

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Summary: In April, 2008, ODI received a letter from the Missouri State Highway Patrol alleging that their field inspector's are finding hydraulic brake hoses that are being cut or crushed by the sharp edges of the bus body. They also supplied information on one bus that experienced total brake loss due to the brake hose being cut. Further field work conducted by ODI has supplemented the number of complaints to a total of eight.

Blue Bird conducted a survey and only identified medium and heavy chafing of the brake hoses on the school buses they examined. They found no leaking brake hoses. Thus, they do not believe that this is a safety related issue.

This investigation is being opened to gain a better understanding of Blue Bird's rationale and fully assess the magnitude of the problem in the field.