



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-001
Date Opened: 01/05/2009 Date Closed: 03/04/2009
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Engine Compartment Fire

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
Products: 2006-2008 Bluebird Vision School Buses
Population: 4,591

Problem Description: Chafing battery cable against rear of engine.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	3	3
Crashes/Fires:	1	1	1
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 Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Blue Bird has filed a safety recall (O9V-055) to resolve this issue.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka Date: 03/04/2009
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd Date: 03/04/2009
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 03/04/2009

Summary: This investigation was opened after ODI learned about a fire alleged to have started from the main battery cable chafing at the rear of the engine. The subject bus was a new 2008 model and the battery cable runs from the electrical junction block to the battery. The problem only affects buses equipped with the Caterpillar engine.

Subsequent field inspections found battery cables on two other buses showing signs of abrasion against the rear of the engine.

On February 16, 2009, Blue Bird filed a safety recall to inspect all involved buses. Blue Bird will inspect the battery power cables at the rear of the engine on the suspect buses and correct the problem as necessary.

This recall action resolves the issues raised by this investigation. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.