



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

ODI RESUME

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

Manufacturer: Blue Bird Body Company
Products: 2006-2008 Bluebird Vision School Buses
Population: 2500 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Chafing battery cable against rear of engine.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	0	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 (PE) is opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM*

Date: 01/05/2009

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 01/05/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/05/2009

Summary: Fire investigators allege that a bus fire resulted 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 electric junction block to the battery. The problem only affects buses equipped with the caterpillar engine configuration.

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

This investigation is opened for further study and information gathering.