



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-050
Date Opened: 10/07/2009
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Rear Spring Trailing Arm Bolt Loose

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
Products: 2009-2010 Thomas Built C-2 School Buses
Population: 3,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Rear spring trailing arm bolts were found to be loose.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	0	0
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 *RB*
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary:

Two school bus fleets have informed ODI that they have found loose bolts on the rear suspension trailing arms of the air ride suspension on several of their buses. ODI has visited the local dealer and confirmed the loose bolts. If these bolts fail and separate, the rear suspension can shift, allowing the rear end housing to move forward or backward. This could have a detrimental impact on vehicle control.

This could possibly lead to a vehicle crash. An investigation is opened to gain a full understanding of this issue and possible safety ramifications.