



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-018
Date Opened: 05/27/2010
Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Engine Compartment Fires

Date Closed: 07/09/2010
Reviewer: Richard Boyd

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
Products: 2008-2010 Blue Bird Vision buses
Population: 3,789

Problem Description: Engine compartment fires

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	5	5**
Crashes/Fires:	5	5	5**
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

** Count indicates duplicate reports received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This PE is closed. Blue Bird has filed a safety recall that address the safety concerns.

Summary:

This investigation was opened after ODI became aware of four engine compartment fires allegedly related to fuel leakage from the engine's fuel injector system. ODI conducted field examinations and communicated the identified concerns to Blue Bird. ODI also had discussions with Caterpillar, the engine manufacturer.

On June 28th, 2010, Blue Bird filed two safety defect reports with NHTSA to address fuel lines that may crack at the fastening point to the common fuel rail. Safety recall campaign 10V-289 involves 3,686 school buses and safety recall campaign 10V-290 involves 103 non-school bus vehicles. The subject vehicles were equipped with the Caterpillar C-7-07 engine and it was determined that clamping of the #5 fuel line to the #6 fuel line and assembly stresses caused the #6 fuel line to fail. The remedy consist of replacing the #5 and #6 fuel lines and adding a new clamp to # 5 fuel line.

Simultaneously with Blue Bird's decision to conduct the above recalls, Caterpillar Inc. filed a safety recall (10E-025) with NHTSA to perform the same remedy on 5,920 C7 series engines. Blue Bird engines are included in the Caterpillar recall.

These recalls resolve the issues raised by this investigation. Therefore, this investigation is closed.