



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-002
Date Opened: 01/11/2011
Investigator: Nate Seymour
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Fuel Leak

Date Closed: 03/17/2011
Reviewer: Richard Boyd

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA
Products: 2005-2007 Sterling L-liner (Auto hauler) with MBE4000 engine
Population: 2,117

Problem Description: The low pressure fuel lines on the engine are prone to failure resulting in fuel leaks potentially resulting in a vehicle fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	5	0	5
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	3	0	3

*Description of Other: Fleet reports

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This PE is closed. A safety recall (11V-136) is being conducted.

Summary:

ODI gathered information from four auto hauler fleets during its investigation. At least five of the fleets' vehicles were damaged or completely destroyed by a fire caused by a leak in low pressure fuel line. The fleets reported numerous other failures that spilled large quantities of diesel fuel on roadways and disabled tractor trailers.

Daimler Trucks North America submitted a recall notice on 24 February 2011. Daimler's announcement of a safety recall on this matter addresses ODI's concerns. The 573 letter was received prior to the due date of the IR response, therefore Daimler has been relieved from having to submit an IR response. Daimler will replace the upper and lower low pressure fuel lines with a "more robust" line. The exact remedy and replacement parts are not yet finalized. Daimler will be submitting a supplemental report when the information is available. ODI will closely monitor the remedy to ensure it is adequate.

The subject vehicles have been recalled, therefore this investigation is closed.