U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 11-006
Date Opened: 02/28/2011 **Date Closed:** 08/05/2011
Investigator: Peter Kivett **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Fuel Tank Straps Fail due to Corrosion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: PIERCE MANUFACTURING
Products: 2002 Pierce Lance Fire Trucks
Population: 6,857

Problem Description: Fuel tank straps fail due to corrosion, allowing the fuel the tank to separate from the vehicle.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	14	14**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	0	1

***Description of Other:** TSB provided by Pierce

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

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Safety Recall 11V-385.

Summary:

On February 28th 2011 the Office of Defects Investigations (ODI) opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE11-006) on certain Pierce fire trucks for fuel tank straps that fail due to corrosion; allowing the fuel the tank to drop from the vehicle.

Pierce determined that some fire trucks may be exposed to winter road de-icing chemicals. Over a period of time the fuel tank straps may corrode. This corrosion will weaken the fuel tank straps causing the strap(s) to fail/fracture and allow the fuel tank to separate from the vehicle. If the tank were to drop on the roadway while the vehicle was in motion, the vehicle may stall and lose power. In addition, other surrounding vehicles, trying to avoid the fire truck and or the loose fuel tank may lose control. The danger of a loose fuel tank, spilling its fuel onto the road is also a concern. If either or both of these conditions were to take place, a crash could occur.

Pierce's safety recall (11V-385) is an inspect-and-repair campaign. To reduce the risk of failed tank straps, Pierce is making available to all consumers stainless fuel tank straps upon an inspection of the existing ones. If corrosion is found, Pierce will replace the old corrosion prone fuel straps with new stainless straps. The vehicles included in this safety recall are: certain Arrow XT, Dash, Custom Contender, Lance, Enforcer, Pierce Arrow, Quantum, Saber & Commercial fire apparatus models manufactured between January 2, 1995 and January 21, 2008.

This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. See NHTSA recall 11V-385.