



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-032
Date Opened: 09/12/2011
Investigator: Ric Willard
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Brake Line Chafing

Date Closed: 01/30/2012
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC., FREIGHTLINER LLC
Products: 2005 - 2010 Thomas Built C2 SB with CAT C7 Engines
Population: 700

Problem Description: The rear brake line may contact a fuel supply line and become chafed to the point of rupture. A ruptured rear brake line can result in extended stopping distances.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

***Description of Other:**

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This PE is closed. A safety recall (11V-505) is being conducted.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a complaint alleging brake fluid loss caused by a ruptured brake line that had chafed against a wire harness in the engine compartment of the complainant's vehicle. It was determined that the chafing was caused by contact between the convoluted tubing covering the fuel supply line and the metal brake lines. This issue only affects units with a Caterpillar (CAT) C7 engine and a fuel water separator mounted in a specific location on the frame rail. Not all units with CAT engines were equipped with fuel water separators, but all units with CAT engines and a fuel water separator have them mounted in the same location. Units with other engines have a different fuel supply line routing and are not affected by this defect.

Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) submitted a recall notice on 18 October 2011 involving seven-hundred (700) model year (MY) 2005-2009 vehicles. In its notice, DTNA provided an explanation that MY2010 vehicles were not built with CAT C7 engines and, that of the model years that were built with C7 engines, only 700 had fuel water separators. All 700 such vehicles are included in this recall.

DTNA's announcement of a safety recall addresses ODI's concerns. The recall remedy involves replacement of any damaged brake lines and rerouting as needed. This investigation is closed.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints under the following identification (ODI) number: 10383939