



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-041
Date Opened: 01/20/2012
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Collapse of Squad Seat Base

Date Closed: 01/11/2013
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Medtec Ambulance Corporation
Products: 2011 Medtec R152 Type 1 Ambulance
Population: 2,000

Problem Description: The screws used to secure the squad seat base to the hinge bracket fail allowing the seat base to separate and collapse.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	2	2**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	1	1	1**
Number of Injuries:	1	1	1**
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Recall 12V-554

Summary:

On January 20th 2012 the Office of Defects Investigations (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) to assess and review a complaint (VOQ # 10424476) concerning a squad bench failure on a 2011 Medtec R152 Type 1 Ambulance emergency response vehicle.

The VOQ, submitted by an emergency medical professional, indicated that he was injured due to a failure of the bench seat in the emergency cab while treating a patient en route to the hospital. The complainant was allegedly sitting on the squad seat bench located in the emergency cab when the vehicle drove over a bump causing the seat to separate from its hinged bracket. This failure caused the complainant to fall into the lower storage area, allegedly injuring his back in the process. An ODI investigator contacted the complainant and arranged for an inspection of similar vehicles to examine their squad bench seats. ODI also contacted the Vehicle Research Testing Center (VRTC) to conduct testing of the bench seat and its support hinge. However, Medtec initiated a safety recall before VRTC completed its testing program.

On November 29th 2012, Medtec submitted a Part 573 defect notice indicating it would conduct a safety recall to install improved seat hinge hardware on the effected population.

This investigation is closed.

NHTSA will continue to monitor the recalled vehicles to ensure the remedy implemented by Medtec is adequate. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.

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

(ODI) number: 10424476.