



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 11-007
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 05/27/2011
Investigator: Tom Bowman **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Wheel Separations (Broken Studs)

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: DOUBLETREE RV
Products: MY 2008, 2009, 2010 DoubleTree (DRV) Recreational Vehicles
Population: 922
Problem Description: Loss of wheel clamp may cause broken wheel mounting studs which can possibly result in a wheel separation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	7	7**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

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

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open an Engineering Analysis.

Summary:

As a part of PE10-040 investigation activities for both monitoring and to provide candidates for on-site field examinations, ODI had requested Doubletree RV (DRV) to inform ODI of all newly reported wheel separation incidents.

DRV has reported two newly-reported incidents since October, 2010.

(1) On November 3, 2010, DRV reported the complete separation of the left (driver side) - forward wheel assembly mounted to a 2010 model year DRV Mobile Suites RV equipped with aluminum wheels mounted on eight 9/16" wheel mounting studs.

(2) On May 2, 2011, DRV reported the complete separation of the right (passenger side) - rear wheel assembly mounted to a 2010 model year Elite Suites RV equipped with aluminum wheels mounted on eight 5/8" wheel mounting studs.

ODI, in conjunction DRV representatives, visited and inspected both of these vehicles within a few days of each reported incident for the purpose of identifying possibly contributory issues associated with components, component interfaces, and/or maintenance issues prior to evidence being lost or altered in the repair process.

To improve the mounting surface quality in new production vehicles, DRV instructed that paint be removed from hub

faces as of January, 2011.

DRV also issued an owner letter in January, 2011 advising owners to check lug nut torque and notify DRV in the event of any owner concerns or problems regarding loosening or inability of the wheel retention system to maintain the specified torque.

The two wheel separations have occurred between November 2010 and May 2011 (during investigation PE10-040) indicating that further investigation of the wheel separation issue in Doubletree RV products is warranted.