



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: Richard Boyd
Subject: Fuel Leaks
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA
Products: 2005-2007 Sterling L-liner with MBE4000 engine
Population: 1,500 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The 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	TBD	1
Crashes/Fires:	4	TBD	3
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	1	TBD	1

*Description of Other: Fleet report

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to investigate the alleged defect.

Summary:

NHTSA received one VOQ alleging a fuel leak on a vehicle that was excluded from a recall of the same engine make and model which was the subject of Recall 08V-113. ODI contacted the fleet and learned that the fleet was experiencing fuel leaks on a low pressure fuel line mounted on the MBE4000 engine. This is a different line than what was addressed in the above mentioned recall. The contacted fleet alleges that they have experienced 3 vehicle fires as a result of this fuel line problem.

ODI also contacted three other fleets that operate similar equipment. One of those fleets reported that it too had experienced a vehicle fire. Though unconfirmed, at this point ODI is aware of four engine fires on two fleets that are alleged to be related to a fuel line failure. ODI is working to gather the specifics.

ODI believes that the alleged defect may be the root cause which has resulted in multiple vehicle fires. ODI has opened this PE to further investigate this matter.