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
Investigator: Peter Kivett **Reviewer:** Richard Boyd
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Fuel Tank Straps break

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: PIERCE MANUFACTURING
Products: 2002 Pierce Lance Fire Trucks
Population: 1,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Fuel tank straps fail due to corrosion, allowing the fuel the tank to drop

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*:	1	0	1

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

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been opened

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a VOQ from a fire truck repair facility regarding fuel tank straps that allegedly failed due to corrosion. The corroded tank straps allowed the tank, which was filled with 63 gallons of fuel, to drop to the garage floor. The fire trucks are housed in a heated garage and are serviced/inspected twice a year. According to the complainant, the dealer replaced the original factory installed metal straps with newer, more robust straps made of stainless steel.

Preliminary research indicates that Pierce Manufacturing submitted a TSB (May 2003) regarding the necessity of updating the factory installed fuel straps due to corrosion and failure, particularly in regions with high use of road salt. The TSB does not specify model or model year for the fire trucks.

ODI is concerned that the TSB was indicative of future failures. With the recent fleet report, ODI believes a Preliminary Evaluation is warranted to examine the scope and severity of this problem. ODI is aware of other unconfirmed allegations of additional failures.