



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-015
Date Opened: 04/26/2011
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Battery Cable Corrosion

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: WHEELED COACH INDUSTRIES
Products: 2003-2010 Wheeled Coach Crusader Ambulances
Population: 1,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Positive accessory cables corrode and break from secondary remote battery terminal causing arching and loss of all accessories, lights, sirens, inverter, and life support equipment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is opened.

Summary:

On February 7th 2011 the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a Vehicle Owners Questionnaire (VOQ) on an Emergency Response E-350 Ambulance. The complainant alleged the accessory cables corrode and separate from a bracket causing arching (short to ground) and results in a complete loss of ambulance accessories including lights, sirens, and life-support equipment.

The subject vehicle has a separate junction box near the rear wheel that is to be used for all electrical accessories that might be added by the final stage body builder. Over time this junction box allows foreign debris to enter and corrode the connections. The complainant has informed ODI that on several occasions, while on a call, an emergency vehicle has lost all cab lights, sirens and emergency relate equipment/accessories due to these cables separating. The consumer also alleges he has repaired approximately 70 units for to this condition.

ODI has received several pictures from the complainant related to the alleged defect. The pictures show extensive corrosion. This Preliminary Evaluation is opened to evaluate the corrosion condition and the risk it presents.