



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-027
Date Opened: 08/16/2011
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Fire truck aerial ladder failure

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: KME FIRE APPARATUS
Products: KME Ariel Cat 2008
Population: 100 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Fire truck's aerial ladder can move unexpectedly or in the wrong direction under command.

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 August 9th 2011 the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a Vehicle Owners Questionnaire (VOQ) concerning an alleged failure related to a fire truck's aerial ladder. The electronic over hydraulic controller that is used to move the aerial bucket fails, causing the ladder to move in the wrong direction unexpectedly. Moreover, a secondary mechanism that controls the aerial bucket from the ground called a "dead man's switch" also allegedly fails to control the aerial bucket, moving it in an unwanted direction.

The complainant alleged this is a second failure related to the fleet, both on different fire trucks but related to the same models. Improper movement of the aerial bucket could present a safety.

This PE is open to ascertain the scope and failure mechanism related to this alleged safety defect.