



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-029
Date Opened: 09/02/2011
Investigator: Ric Willard
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Thomas Built CNG Tank Abrasion

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA, FREIGHTLINER LLC
Products: 2003 - 2012 Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner HDX CNG Bus
Population: 650 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Compressed natural gas (CNG) tanks may contact the frame and become abraded. This abrasion may cause the tanks to be susceptible to failure.

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: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

On August 29, 2011 ODI received a VOQ from a Los Angeles school district indicating a 2003 Thomas Built Saf-T-Liner HDX compressed natural gas (CNG) school bus in their fleet had insufficient clearance between the CNG tank and mounting bracket. ODI reviewed subsequent pictures from the fleet that appear to indicate insufficient clearance between the tank and the frame. In at least one instance, the frame damaged the outer tank wrapping.

An abraded or otherwise compromised CNG tank may be susceptible to bursting during operation or refueling posing a risk to occupants or service personnel.

A preliminary evaluation has been opened to assess the issue.