



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-031
Date Opened: 09/12/2011
Investigator: Ric Willard
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Body Battery Post Corrosion

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC., FREIGHTLINER LLC
Products: 2005 - 2007 Thomas Built C2 School Bus
Population: 6,139 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Auxiliary battery post may corrode creating a path to ground posing a fire risk.

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:

ODI received a complaint regarding a corroded battery post located behind a service panel near the driver's seat on a 2006 Thomas Built C2 school bus. This corrosion is believed to have caused a fire on the vehicle. Reviewing pictures of similar buses in the fleet, and an ODI inspection of a second fleet, found significant corrosion is possible on these buses. This corrosion can create a path to ground and a risk of fire.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the safety risks of the alleged defect.