



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 11-032
Date Opened: 09/12/2011
Investigator: Ric Willard
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Brake Line Chafing

Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC., DAIMLER TRUCKS NORTH AMERICA, FREIGHTLINER LLC
Products: 2005 - 2010 Thomas Built C2 SB with CAT C7 Engines
Population: 3,833 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The rear brake line may contact a fuel supply line and become chafed to the point of rupture. A ruptured rear brake line can result in extended stopping distances.

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 alleging brake fluid loss caused by a ruptured brake line that had abraded against a wire harness in the engine compartment of the vehicle. Upon review of subsequent pictures and discussion with Daimler Trucks North America (DTNA) it was found that the ruptured rear brake line (p/n A12-21046-000) had contacted a fuel supply line. Inspection of part A12-21046-000 on a second in-fleet bus found signs of chafing that if not repaired may have eventually resulted in rupture.

Ruptured brake lines can cause a loss of brake fluid increasing the stopping distance of a school bus in operation which could lead to a crash.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the cause of the brake line failures and the risks resulting from the alleged defect.