U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 12-001
Prompted by: 11E-045
Date Opened: 02/01/2012
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Battery Separators Catching Fire

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SURE POWER INDUSTRIES, INC.
Products: Multiple Models Shipped February 2009 through June 2011
Population: 14,990

Problem Description: Certain battery separators can experience an internal circuit board capacitor failure that may lead to a fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	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: Open EQ

Summary:

On October 20, 2011, Sure Power, Inc. (Sure Power) notified the NHTSA that it had decided certain Sure Power battery separators contain a safety related defect. Sure Power stated that certain battery separators, shipped to various distributors and vehicle manufacturers between February 2009 and June 2011, may experience an internal circuit board capacitor failure. A circuit board capacitor failure could lead to overheating, smoke, and, possibly, a fire during or following use.

In its Defect Report, Sure Power noted that it sold 2,570 affected units to six different vehicle manufacturers. Two of those six vehicle manufacturers have filed subsequent Defect Reports and conducted safety recalls for their affected vehicles. The remainder of the units were sold to various authorized distributors. Many of these distributors and the original supplier of the failed component, AVX Corporation, will be contacted in the course of this equipment query.

The purpose of this EQ is to write to any other companies that might have purchased this equipment, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.