



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 13-004  
**Date Opened:** 03/05/2013  
**Investigator:** Ric Willard  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Coolant Leak Resulting in Occupant Burns

**Date Closed:** 07/12/2013  
**Reviewer:** Bruce York-B

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** DAIMLER COMMERCIAL BUSES NA  
**Products:** 2011 - 2012 Orion VII Transit Buses  
**Population:** 52

**Problem Description:** A significant amount of hot coolant can unexpectedly come in contact with transit bus passengers resulting in burns and other injuries.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	1	0	1
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Close this Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

**Summary:**

ODI is aware of three (3) incidents of heater hose failures on the delivery circuit (high temperature) of the engine coolant system on the subject transit buses. The failure occurs in the vicinity of the air ducts above the street-side passenger compartment. The air ducts may quickly fill with engine temperature fluids that are expelled without warning onto the seats below. ODI is aware of no injuries at this time.

The heater hose in question was only installed as original equipment on fifty-two (52) buses in a single fleet. At this time all 52 hoses have had the hose replaced with a standard higher working pressure hose. Daimler Buses NA, the manufacturer of the buses, has gone out of business. Therefore, in view of the need to allocate and prioritize NHTSA's limited resources to accomplish the agency's safety mission, ODI is closing this investigation.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints) under the following identification (ODI) number: 10500221