



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 13-038  
**Date Opened:** 11/15/2013  
**Investigator:** Kyle Bowker  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** CNG Fuel Container Securement

**Date Closed:** 03/09/2014  
**Reviewer:** Bruce York-B

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** A-1 AUTO ELECTRIC, BAF Technologies, Inc., Ford Motor Company  
**Products:** 2011-2012 Ford F-550 with CNG Fuel System Conversion  
**Population:** 18  
**Problem Description:** Alleged mounting bracket fracture resulting in an unsecured CNG fuel container.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

\*\* Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed. See Safety Recall 14V-040.

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is aware of 1 incident related to the alleged defect. By letter dated January 10, 2014, Almarec, Inc. (doing business as "A-1 Alternative Fuel Systems") has notified ODI that it has conducted a safety recall (NHTSA Recall No. 14V-040) to address a safety defect in 18 model year 2011-2012 Ford F-550 transit buses manufactured between May 2011 and April 2013. These vehicles have been altered by A-1 to contain one or more compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel containers. According to A-1, the brackets securing passenger side CNG fuel containers to the vehicle chassis may fracture, resulting in a CNG fuel container that is unsecured.

A-1 has reportedly inspected all 18 affected vehicles and repaired all vehicles equipped with the defective mounting bracket by installing a new bracket of an improved design. The new bracket has added strength as a result of the following design revisions: the cantilevered mounting plate is reinforced with additional support plates, the cantilevered position is mounted higher on the bracket above the CNG fuel container center line position (thus reducing the moment arm), and it is constructed of heavier gauge steel plate that is also dimensionally wider, which provides for a greater bonding surface area with the vehicle chassis.

Based on the recall action taken by Almarec, Inc., this investigation is closed.