



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 13-008
Date Opened: 03/29/2013
Investigator: Peter Kivett **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: High exhaust temperature causing fire

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: MANNING EQUIPMENT LLC
Products: 2012 F-350s (gas) Crew cab truck with Manning utility body
Population: 3,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Vehicle fire in the passenger side / lower rear storage compartment of the utility body due to heat impingement from engine's exhaust system.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Injury Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other*: | 0 | 1 | 1 |

*Description of Other: Equipment Alert USFS-EA-2012-01

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

Summary:

During communications with Government Services Administration (GSA) staff ODI has been made aware of a 2012 Ford F350 utility truck vehicle fire. The fire allegedly resulted from high exhaust temperatures igniting materials within the passenger side / lower rear storage compartment of the Manning utility body. As a result of this incident an Equipment Alert USFS-EA-2012-01 was issued by GSA to operators of GSA owned fleet vehicles equipped with the subject Manning utility body.

The San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) was contracted by GSA to conduct testing of the Manning utility body and determine the cause of the fire and if an Equipment Alert should be issued. Testing performed by SDTDC engineers found temperatures in the subject utility body compartment well above those of peer vehicles. The elevated temperatures were found to be the result of the exhaust pipe exiting configuration directing exhaust gases onto the utility body undercarriage. Furthermore, above average temperatures were found to melt plastic/rubber parts just under the exhaust outlet, which is directly under the subject utility body compartment. An aftermarket exhaust tip extension that points down, forcing the exhaust away from the utility body, was found to remedy the issue.

ODI is opening this PE to further assess the risks associated with the alleged defect.