



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 13-017
Date Opened: 05/22/2013
Investigator: Peter Kivett
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Aerial ladder bucket failure
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SUTPHEN CORPORATION
Products: 2009 Sutphen SPH
Population: 2,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Retraction and extension cable failures resulting in aerial ladder bucket retraction.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Number of Injuries:	5	0	5
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is opened

Summary:

ODI received an allegation involving the failure of an aerial ladder bucket in a subject vehicle while in operation. The failure occurred during a public relations event at a fire station while four civilians and one firefighter were being elevated in the aerial ladder bucket. Once the ladder reached a height of approximately 8 feet and at an articulated angle of approximately 45 degrees, the ladder component of the vehicle allegedly experienced a sudden and catastrophic failure. This resulted in the ladder retracting rapidly into its bedded position. This sudden stoppage caused multiple injuries to all five of the occupants within the aerial ladder bucket.

A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened to determine whether a safety defect exists in the subject vehicles.