U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-009
Prompted by: 14V-021
Date Opened: 07/17/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Furnace Intake Fan May Melt

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: SUBURBAN MANUFACTURING CO
Products: SF-30 FQ Furnace
Population: 138,743 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The plastic furnace intake fan may melt which can cause the furnace to overheat and cause a vehicle fire.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is Opened.

Summary:

In a letter dated January 23, 2014, Trails West Manufacturing of Idaho, Inc. (Trails West) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain model year 2010-2014 RPM bumper pull recreational trailers manufactured October 2009 through January 2014 and equipped with a Suburban SF-30 FQ furnace. In the affected vehicles, the plastic furnace intake fan may melt which can cause the furnace to overheat causing other plastic pieces to melt from the lack of air flow. The melting and overheating could result in a trailer fire. This matter was assigned recall number 14V-021.

Suburban provided NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the manufacturers that may have incorporated these furnaces into their vehicles. However, at this time, Suburban has not filed a Part 573 Report, nor have the other potentially affected vehicle manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to Suburban and the companies that purchased Suburban's SF-30 FQ furnaces, notify them of this defect, and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.