



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 14-020
Date Opened: 07/07/2014
Investigator: Kyle Bowker
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: CNG Fuel System Integrity
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Daimler Trucks North America LLC
Products: 2014 Freightliner Business Class M2
Population: 500 (Estimated)
Problem Description: During a braking maneuver, an unsecured forklift rolled forward, penetrated the front wall of the cargo compartment and struck an unprotected CNG fuel container mounted behind the truck cab, causing it to burst with explosive force.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	1	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	1	TBD	TBD
Other*:	1	TBD	TBD

***Description of Other:** The subject incident was widely reported by numerous news media outlets.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has learned of a fatal incident that occurred on April 3, 2014 in Howard, WI involving a model year 2014 Freightliner Business Class M2 truck manufactured by Daimler Trucks North America LLC (DNTA). The subject vehicle was configured as a straight truck with a dry van body manufactured by Delta Waseca Inc. and was equipped with a compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel system supplied to DTNA by Agility Fuel Systems Inc.

At the time of the incident, the subject vehicle was transporting a 3-wheel electric forklift a short distance from one AMI facility to another location a short distance away. The forklift was loaded into the subject vehicle cargo compartment with the forks pointing forward. The forks were reportedly lowered to the floor of the cargo compartment and the forklift's parking brake was applied. During a vehicle braking maneuver, the forklift rolled forward, penetrated the front wall of the cargo compartment and struck a CNG fuel container mounted behind the truck cab, causing it to burst with explosive force. The driver of the subject vehicle was fatally injured and the passenger, who was reportedly ejected from the vehicle by the blast, was transported to the hospital with critical injuries. No related fire was reported.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the fuel system integrity of the subject vehicle.