



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 17-009
Date Opened: 12/28/2017
Investigator: Ryan Rahimpour
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Goodyear G159 275/70R22.5 Tire Failure

Date Closed: 10/03/2022
Reviewer: Joshua Neff

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Products: 1996 - 2003 Goodyear G159 275/70R22.5
Population: 173,237

Problem Description: Goodyear G159 tire failures on Class-A motorhomes. Tire failures can result in the loss of vehicle control and a crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10	Confidential	Confidential
Crashes/Fires:	2	Confidential	Confidential
Injury Incidents:	9	Confidential	Confidential
Number of Injuries:	13	Confidential	Confidential
Fatality Incidents:	1	Confidential	Confidential
Number of Fatalities:	1	Confidential	Confidential

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is closed. See safety recall 22T-009.

Summary:

As the result of a court order authorizing the release of Goodyear records to NHTSA, the agency obtained claim and complaint data alleging that Goodyear G159 275/70R22.5 tires installed on Class-A motorhomes failed in service, causing deaths or personal injuries. The number of these claims suggests that the failures may stem from a safety related defect. Many of these claims were not required to be reported under 49 CFR Part 579 and the data produced in litigation was sealed under protective orders and confidential settlement agreements, precluding claimants from submitting it to NHTSA.

The Office of Defects investigation has also received 10 consumer complaints alleging failures of Goodyear G159 275/70R22.5 tires on motorhomes. Two of these complaints allege a crash occurred as a result of the tire failures. Goodyear separately reported 9 claims under 49 CFR Part 579 alleging 1 death and 13 injuries.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a Preliminary Evaluation to investigate allegations of tire failures and to request certain information. Analysis of the data provided by Goodyear showed high failure frequency when these tires used on motorhomes. The findings of ODI's investigation are further detailed in the agency's recall request letter sent to Goodyear, dated February 22, 2022, and available in the PE17-009 investigation file.

In response to this investigation, Goodyear filed safety recall 22T-009 covering G159 275/70R22.5 tires manufactured between February 1, 1996, and January 31, 2003. This recall covers the entire period of production for these tires. These tires experienced tread separations and other failures when exposed to foreseeable conditions present in use on motorhomes, including overloading and underinflation.

The recall action addresses the safety concern that led to the opening of this investigation. Therefore, this

investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist in other model and size tires outside of the recall scope. The agency reserves the right to take further action if warranted by the circumstances.