



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 18-009  
**Date Opened:** 08/21/2018  
**Investigator:** Peter Kivett  
**Approver:** Stephen Ridella  
**Subject:** Unintended aerial platform movement  
**Date Closed:** 04/08/2019  
**Reviewer:** Bruce York-B

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Pierce Manufacturing  
**Products:** 2004 - 2018 Pierce aerial fire trucks  
**Population:** 886  
**Problem Description:** Aerial control valve does not return to a neutral position when released by the operator resulting in unintended movement of the aerial platform.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	5	5	5**
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0

\*\* Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation is closed with Safety Recall 19V-022.

### Summary:

This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) was opened August 21, 2018 based on 5 consumer complaints for unintended aerial platform movement on the subject vehicles. ODI complaint numbers 11101301, 11101303, 11101304, 11101305 and 11105134 allege there is a defect with the aerial ladder control mechanism that resulted unintended movement.

ODI conducted several field inspections, meeting with local fire houses and municipalities to better understand and witness the alleged defect. In addition, ODI met with Pierce and the Fleet Operations Manager of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service's Central Fleet to discuss the known complaints, possible attributing factors and vehicles to be tested/instrumented. On November 30, 2018 Pierce met with ODI staff at DOT headquarters and agreed that a safety defect existed on their vehicle aerial devices. The subject vehicles may unintentionally rotate right when a command to extend the aerial ladder is given. This unintentional movement is the result of faulty Random Access Memory (RAM) chip configuration on the aerial ladder controller. If the aerial device is operated in this manner it may contract an obstruction, potentially causing property damage or injury. In addition, it may hinder the ability to perform emergency functions as intended. The effected population includes 886 2004–2018 model year Pierce Arrow XT, Dash, Enforcer, Impel, Quantum and Velocity fire trucks.

This Preliminary Evaluation is closed with Safety Recall 19V-022.