



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 19-016
Date Opened: 11/12/2019
Investigator: Peter Kivett **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Aerial Turntable Failures

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.
Products: 2013 KME firetruck supplied with Kraft Hydraulic turn tables
Population: 36 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Fire truck aerial turntables may not be lubricated causing them to fail in a stuck position or free wheel into structures/power lines.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	1	0	1

*Description of Other: Kraft Fluid Systems summary report (March 7th 2019)

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is open.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is opening this Preliminary Evaluation on KME fire trucks that are equipped with Kraft Hydraulics turntables for their aerial apparatus.

ODI received 2 consumer complaints alleging their vehicle's aerial turn table was supplied from the manufacture without lubrication. This lack of lubrication caused the gear boxes that rotate the aerial platform to fail. When inspected, it was discovered that some of the turntable internal gears had seized and other gearbox internals were severely corroded and pitted due to lack of lubrication.

If the aerial ladder traverses in an uncontrolled movement, the ladder is at risk of striking objects potentially endangering fire fighter's safety.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the frequency of this failure mechanism and understand the conditions that might influence this malfunction on the subject vehicles.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at:
<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID>
 using the following complaint identification numbers: 1089324 and 11206194