

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 20V-006

**Manufacturer Name :** Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.

**Submission Date :** JAN 08, 2020

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-006

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



### Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.

**Address :** One Industrial Complex  
Nesquehoning PA 18240

**Company phone :** 8002353926

### Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 6

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

### Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2012-2017 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX

**Vehicle Type :** BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

**Body Style :** OTHER

**Power Train :** DIESEL

**Descriptive Information :**

- The recall information was determined using build records.
- The included aerial devices have swing drives that are installed on the underside of the turn table with the drive gear on top.
- 2012 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX: 1
- 2013 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX: 1
- 2014 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX: 2
- 2015 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX: 1
- 2017 KME 55 FT FIRESTIX: 1

**Production Dates :** JUN 17, 2011 - NOV 30, 2017

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

### Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Some KME FIRESTIX aerials may have been shipped without lubricating oil in the swing drive.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** The swing drive is a gearbox with a pinion that rotates the aerial by means of a hydraulic motor. The gearbox is supposed to contain lubricating oil to reduce friction and protect internal gears from corrosion. If the swing drive was not filled with lubricating oil, the internal gears could be damaged potentially leading to seizing. This may affect the operation of the unit on the fire ground.

If the aerial ladder traverses in an uncontrolled movement, the ladder is at

Description of the Cause : risk of striking objects potentially endangering fire fighter's safety.  
Potential missed production step of filling swing drives with lubricating oil.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Grinding noises from inside the swing drive.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : NR  
Address : NR  
NR  
Country : NR

## Chronology :

In February 2019, a customer contacted KME for assistance in troubleshooting a grinding noise on their Firestix aerial device. They along with another customer filed complaints with ODI and ODI notified KME. KME provided information to ODI concerning the Firestix unique swing drive configuration and functionality. After meeting with Mr. Kivett and further discussions with ODI, KME management reviewed all the information during December and determined on Jan 3 that filing a 573 report would be the best of course of action.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The population will be inspected by KME or its Dealers to verify if the swing drives contain lubricating oil. If they do not, the swing drives will be sent to the manufacturer to be rebuilt. If the owner already incurred costs to remedy this issue, they will be directed in the notification letter to contact KME for reimbursement.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedied component will be inspected to ensure there is lubricating oil inside.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : There are no units in production that use this swing drive.

## Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : -Dealers will be notified between 02/17-02/21/2020  
-Owners will be notified between 02/24-02/28/2020

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 17, 2020 - FEB 21, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : FEB 24, 2020 - FEB 28, 2020

\* NR - Not Reported