



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE24023
Prompted By: VOQ Review
Date Opened: 08/14/2024 **Date:** 01/16/2026
Investigator: Michael Rimstad **Closed:**
Approver: Tanya Topka **Reviewer:** Joshua Neff
Subject: Trailer Hitch Receiver Structure May Crack and Separate

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Thor Motor Coach
Affected Manufacturers: Lippert
Products: 2017, 2019-2023 Thor Motor Coach Windsport 2016-2018, 2020, 2022-2023 Thor Motor Coach Hurricane 2021-2023 Thor Motor Coach Challenger 2016, 2018, 2020-2021, 2023 Thor Motor Coach Miramar 2016, 2018-2019 Thor Motor Coach Outlaw
Population: 9,352

Problem Description: A motorhome's frame extension or trailer hitch receiver may crack and separate, allowing a towed item to detach, increasing the risk of a crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	8	32	0	0	37*	0
Crashes/Fires:	1	3	0	0	4	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Injuries:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Fatalities:	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Total eliminates duplicates received by the manufacturer

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This (PE) Preliminary Evaluation is closed with a manufacturer action Customer Satisfaction Campaign by Thor and Lippert.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation, PE24023, on August 14, 2024, to investigate allegations of Thor Motor Coach motorhome frame or trailer hitch structure cracking and separating. The hitch was manufactured by Lippert and installed by Thor as standard original equipment. ODI received eight Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQs) describing the hitch structure cracking. If not caught in time, a cracked hitch can fully fracture and separate from the vehicle.

ODI sent information requests to Thor and Lippert on September 6, 2024 and September 27, 2024, respectively. Thor's full response was received October 31, 2024, and Lippert's full response was received December 6, 2024. ODI reviewed the responses and learned of improvements introduced to increase the overall strength of the system.

The manufacturers reported 32 total incidents, and ODI is aware of 37 non-duplicative subject vehicle incidents in total, including four crash incidents where the towed vehicle separated and struck a roadside feature. The overall failure rate for all subject vehicles is low, and ODI is not aware of any failures on vehicles produced in the last 30 months.

Although a defect has not been identified, the manufacturers understand the seriousness of a potential hitch receiver structure failure. As a result, Thor, supported by Lippert, is conducting a customer satisfaction campaign that instructs consumers to inspect their hitch structure and informs what to look for and what to do if issues are found. If consumers are uncomfortable performing this inspection, Thor dealers can inspect the trailer hitch for them. The inspection and repair will be done at no expense to the consumer. ODI is closing this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) with this manufacturer action.

The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The Agency reserves the right to take additional action if warranted by future circumstances.

To review the ODI reports cited in the Closing Resume ODI Report Identification Number document, go to [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov).