



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

ODI RESUME

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

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Thor Motor Coach
Affected Manufacturers: Lippert
Products: 2017 Thor Motor Coach Windsport 2017 Thor Motor Coach Hurricane 2016 Thor Motor Coach Hurricane 2022 Thor Motor Coach Challenger 2016 Thor Motor Coach Miramar
Population: 3,091 (Estimated)

Problem Description: A motorhome's frame extension or trailer hitch receiver may crack and/or 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:	5	0	0	0	5	0
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	0	0	0	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

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 5 complaints for various 2016-2022 Thor Motor Coach motorhomes alleging that the trailer hitch receiver ("hitch") or recreational vehicle (RV) frame cracked and/or separated, including one which resulted in the towed item detaching and causing property damage. Other examples of hitch or frame cracking have been discovered prior to hitch separation.

ODI has contacted the RV manufacturer, Thor, the frame extension manufacturer, Mor-Ryde, and the hitch manufacturer, Lippert, who, in response, allege that consumers are overloading the hitch. While the amount that a motorhome can tow must be calculated after determining the cargo, passenger and liquids weights, the hitch that failed had an 8,000lb limit and the vehicle it was flat-towing weighed approximately 4,000lbs.

Hitch or frame cracking resulting in the towed item detaching and becoming loose on the roadway increases the risk of a crash to others on the roadway.

ODI is opening this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) to evaluate the severity of the potential problem and to determine whether an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety exists.

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