



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ25001
Prompted By: Media report of June 2025 fire in SEPTA bus
Date Opened: 06/27/2025
Investigator: Michael Rimstad **Reviewer:** Joshua Neff
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Remedy Effectiveness of Recall 22V887

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Phoenix Motorcars
Affected Manufacturers: Proterra Operating Company, Inc.
Products: 2017-2019 Proterra Catalyst
Population: 300 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Over time, the accumulation of liquid inside a battery pack enclosure may reach a level that could result in the occurrence of a thermal event, which may cause personal injury or property damage.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	0	0	0	1	1	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0	1	1	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0	0	0	0

Description of Other:
News Reports

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Recall Query (RQ).

Summary:

In November 2022, Proterra Operating Company, Inc. (Proterra) filed a safety recall (NHTSA recall 22V887) covering nineteen 2017-2019 Proterra Catalyst transit buses to address the potential of liquid accumulation in the 400-volt battery packs, increasing the risk of a fire. On December 16, 2022, Proterra mailed an interim owner notification letter stating that Proterra would physically inspect and analyze each recalled battery pack. In October 2023, Proterra amended their filing to

now cover 300 vehicles, with a final remedy plan of updating the battery monitoring software. According to the final remedy documents from Proterra, should liquid be detected within the battery pack, the updated software would illuminate a warning light in the driver's dash display, prevent the batteries from being charged, and reduce the maximum speed of the buses. As of the most recent recall completion rate report, 109 of the 300 buses (36.3%) have received the software update.

In August 2023, Proterra declared bankruptcy, with its the three major business areas going to three separate companies. Phoenix Motorcars assumed liability for recall 22V887.

On June 5, 2025, a fire occurred at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) decommissioning lot. Local officials stated that the fire initiated in a battery pack of one of the Proterra buses.

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is opening this Recall Query (RQ) to evaluate the remedy effectiveness of recall 22V887 and to further understand the effects of nearly two-thirds of the affected population having not yet received the recall remedy.