

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 17V-841

**Manufacturer Name :** Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.

**Submission Date :** APR 25, 2019

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-841

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



## Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Tiffin Motorhomes, Inc.  
 Address : 105 2nd Street NW  
 PO Box 596 Red Bay AL 35582  
 Company phone : 999

## Population :

Number of potentially involved : 36,005  
 Estimated percentage with defect : 50 %

## Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2003-2017 Various models 2003 to 2018

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Please see attached spreadsheet for all models that contained Kidde fire extinguishers.

Production Dates : JAN 01, 2003 - NOV 30, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Kidde has notified the vender (Tiffin Supply - a home store) we purchased Kidde fire extinguishers from, that there are some possible defective fire extinguishers. As described in Kidde Recall 17E-062, the fire extinguishers may become clogged, preventing the extinguisher from discharging as expected or excessive force may be needed to activate the fire extinguisher. In certain models, the nozzle may detach from the valve assembly with enough force that it could cause injury and render the product inoperable.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If a fire extinguisher does not function properly, it can increase risk of injury in the event of a fire.

Description of the Cause : Kidde reported under Recall 17E-062 that there are two failure modes for the Universal Valve (Plastic Handle) extinguishers. First, the fire extinguisher may become clogged (preventing complete discharge) or require excessive force to activate. This may occur when the user depresses and quickly releases the lever. This typically occurs if a user depresses the lever for less than 1 second, emitting a small amount of powder or air, and releases the lever. Second, in

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None known

certain models the nozzle may detach from the valve assembly with enough force that it could cause injury and fail to discharge. For Pindicator fire extinguishers, excessive force may be required to activate the extinguisher.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : Walter Kidde Portable Equipment  
Address : 1016 Corporate Park Dr.  
Mebane NORTH CAROLINA 27302  
Country : United States

## Chronology :

Kidde contacted our vender (Tiffin Supply- a home store) that they had a recall on fire extinguishers. Tiffin Supply notified Tiffin Motorhomes November 7th. On November 10, 2017 sent a letter to all our dealers telling them not to sell the Tiffin units they had in stock without either calling and getting a Kidde replacement extinguisher, or purchasing one locally to replace extinguisher. From then till now we have been investigating trying to get information on exactly the process to get the recall started. Today, December 21, 2017, I spoke with a NHTSA representative who said Tiffin Motorhomes files a 573, then gathers end user information and supplies names and addresses to Kidde and they will contact the customers, replace extinguishers, and handle the quarterly reports. I have been in contact with NHTSA several times since learning of the Kidde recall. We have been gathering the information to tell us the breakdown by make and model. However, due to the size and the fact that Tiffin Motorhomes has changed computer systems, it is taking some report writing to glean the information from the old system. I could only get information from 2009 to current 2018 models. This means that as soon as our IT department gets the rest, I will modify this 573 to reflect the additional units.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Vehicle owners will be sent a notification letter by Kidde that will explain how to locate and then identify if the fire extinguisher in their recreational vehicle has been recalled under Kidde Recall 17E-062. That letter will provide the owner two ways to secure a replacement fir extinguisher. 1) A toll-free number can be used to call Kidde, or 2) use of the [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com) website that will instruct a customer how to register for a replacement. As part of the recall process, owners will be given packaging and instructions for returning the recalled fire extinguisher to Kidde or disposal.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Please reference Kidde Recall 17E--062 for a complete list of recalled fire extinguisher models.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** Tiffin Motorhomes was already using 1st Alert fire extinguishers, and had been for about three weeks due to we could not get Kidde anymore. In hind sight, I am sure that was due to Kidde had already recognized the problem and stopped production of the fire extinguishers to investigate.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** After being assigned a recall number and gathering all end unit information, Tiffin has hired R.L. Polk to do the mailing. Mailing will begin on or approximately Feb. 5th and take approximately one week to complete. The dealers who have units on their lots will receive the actual owner notification letter for the specific VIN. During the same time period, however, we plan to send a letter to all our dealers just to keep them apprised of the situation in case any customers ask them for help or have questions.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** FEB 05, 2018 - FEB 09, 2018

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** FEB 05, 2018 - FEB 09, 2018

\* NR - Not Reported