

PIERCE MANUFACTURING, INC.

AN OSHKOSH CORPORATION COMPANY · ISO 9001 CERTIFIED

2600 AMERICAN DRIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 2017
APPLETON, WISCONSIN 54912-2017
920-832-3000 · FAX 920-832-3208



July 25, 2011

Jennifer Timian (NVS-215)
Chief of Recall Management
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Vehicle Recall: **Fuel Tank Strap**
Pierce Recall Number – 74B218

Dear Ms. Timian:

Pierce has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the motor vehicles listed below. We therefore furnish notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

1. Name of Manufacturer and Corporate contact:

Pierce Manufacturing Inc.
David Archer, Director of Engineering
Phone: 920 832-3513
FAX: 920 832-3526
E-Mail: darcher@piercemfg.com

2. Identification of Vehicle Classification:

Make:	Pierce
Model Years Involved:	1995 - 2008
Models:	ArrowXT, Dash, Custom Contender, Lance, Enforcer, Pierce Arrow, Quantum, Saber & Commercial
Mfg. Date Beginning:	01/02/1995
Mfg. Date Ending:	01/21/2008

3. Number of Potentially Affected Vehicles: 6857 total; 6803 US & 54 Canada

4. Estimated Percentage of Vehicles Containing the Defect: 50 %

5. Description of the Defect: Certain Pierce fire apparatus may be equipped with fuel tank straps that are more likely to corrode due to winter road salt or liquid de-icing chemicals. If the fuel tank straps corrode sufficiently, the fuel tank straps may fracture and the fuel tank may fall from the vehicle. If this occurs, the vehicle may lose power and stall. In addition the fuel tank may rupture and spill diesel fuel on the roadway. Either of these outcomes may prompt the fire apparatus or surrounding vehicles to lose control and cause a crash.

6. Chronology of Principal Events:

January 1, 1995: On or about this date production started on the 2nd Generation Pierce body design. Prior to this date, the bottom of the Pierce custom chassis and chassis components received an additional coat of paint. Due to a process change, beginning with the 2nd

Generation body implementation, the fuel tank straps were installed as received from the supplier. No additional paint was applied.

September 2002 – April 2011:

Fifteen fuel tank strap failures have been reported to Pierce Customer Service during this time period. The reported vehicles were manufactured between February 1995 and January 2001.

January, 2004: Stainless steel straps installed on production vehicles.

February 28, 2011: NHTSA Office of Defects Investigation opened investigation PE 11-006 to evaluate the fuel tank strap breakage issue.

March 15, 2011: Roger Lackore, Oshkosh Corporation Safety Director traveled to Washington, DC and met with ODI representatives Frank Borris, Bruce York, Peter Kivett and Nate Seymour to discuss safety recall options.

- 7. Corrective Action:** The existing fuel tank straps will be inspected by the Pierce apparatus owner. If the fuel tank straps are significantly corroded and imminent failure may occur, the fuel tank straps will be replaced with current production stainless steel straps free of charge on those vehicles less than ten (10) years old. For those vehicles older than ten (10) years, the apparatus owner may purchase the fuel tank straps through Pierce Customer Service. Inspection instructions and replacement guidelines will be communicated to the apparatus owner.

The stainless steel fuel tank straps were installed on production vehicles starting in model year 2004.

- 8. Representative Notices:** The owner and dealer letters are attached.

Sincerely,
Pierce Manufacturing Inc.



David Archer
Director of Engineering