



**SUTPHEN**

FAMILY OWNED  
SINCE 1890

July 25, 2013

To whom it may concern:

RE: PE13-017

Enclosed is the information gathered as part of Preliminary Evaluation PE13-017. Per the written request, all model year 2009 aerial platform fire apparatus produced are included. Sutphen Corporation, which is based in Dublin, OH, produced the truck listed in the Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ). Sutphen Towers, based in Hilliard, OH, is a separate company that also manufactures fire apparatus. The data for the 2009 aerial platforms produced by both companies is included.

The aerial fire apparatus referred to in this investigation should be considered specialized vehicles that are not intended for use by the general consumer. As such, the firefighters that operate them and the mechanics that work on them traditionally are well trained on the all proper procedures necessary to safely operate and maintain these vehicles.

Based on the information gathered to date, it is Sutphen's opinion that improper maintenance and/or inspection were leading contributors to the incident mentioned in the Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire.

Due to changes in the firefighting industry, in some cases maintenance and inspections are not being done in the same manner as they previously were. As such, the changes Sutphen has made to our components and procedures has generally revolved around improving items to make them more robust in cases where maintenance and inspections are not being performed correctly. Along these same lines, Sutphen has started a program to visit fire departments with aerial platforms and provide them with up-to-date training on the proper maintenance and inspection of aerial fire apparatus.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

J. Eric Bates, P.E.

Aerial Design Engineer  
Sutphen Corporation

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