



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 17-009  
**Date Opened:** 12/28/2017  
**Investigator:** Otto Matheke **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B  
**Approver:** Stephen Ridella  
**Subject:** Goodyear G159 Tires

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
**Products:** 1996 - 2003 Goodyear G159 tires  
**Population:** 40,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Goodyear G159 tire failures on class-A motor homes. Tire failures can result in the loss of vehicle control and a crash.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	10	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	2	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	9	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	13	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	1	Confidential	Confidential
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	1	Confidential	Confidential

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

### Summary:

As the result of a court order authorizing the release of Goodyear records to NHTSA, the agency obtained claim and complaint data alleging that Goodyear G159 tires installed on Class A motor homes failed in service, causing deaths or personal injuries. The number of these claims suggests that the failures may stem from a safety related defect. Many of these claims were not required to be reported under 49 CFR Part 579 and the data produced in litigation was sealed under protective orders and confidential settlement agreements, precluding claimants from submitting it to NHTSA.

The Office of Defects investigation has also received 10 consumer complaints alleging failures of Goodyear G159 tires on motor homes. Two of these complaints allege a crash occurred as a result of the tire failures. Goodyear separately reported 9 claims under 49 CFR Part 579 alleging 1 death and 13 injuries.

Among many concerns, claimants contend the Goodyear G159 tires were allegedly not designed for extended use at highway speeds as would be experienced during motor home operation.

The complaints referenced above can be viewed at NHTSA.gov under the following ID numbers: 558091, 558307, 558654, 562430, 785967, 891399, 891480, 8022066, 10037738, 10959176.