



## SERVICE BULLETIN

**TO:** Service Bulletin Distribution  
**FROM:** Joe Barry  
**DATE:** 1-22-09  
**RE:** SERVICE TOPIC# 274 Undercarriage Corrosion

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The increased popularity of liquid de-icing agents along with traditional road salts has increased the risk of chassis-related corrosion. Liquid de-icing agents wick into narrow gaps even more readily than road salts and cause corrosion when humidity is present. The new chlorides tend to stick to surfaces more than traditional road salt. This is an unfortunate situation that many different trucking industries are experiencing in the "snow belt" areas of the country. (A number of articles have been written about the affects of chemicals on over-the-road apparatus. You may view some of these on [Pierceparts.com](http://Pierceparts.com) under About Pierce/Articles/Corrosion Information)

Fire apparatus is no exception. The following are some suggestions that may inhibit the effects of corrosion:

- Thoroughly pressure wash the undercarriage of the apparatus frequently with plain water to remove salt and chemicals. Note: When washing using high water pressure, all grease fittings outside and underneath the vehicle chassis must be lubricated after washing to dissipate water and contaminated grease.
- Apply a rust proofing compound to the undercarriage of the apparatus, such as Ziebart.
- Inspect the undercarriage regularly to identify any corrosion at an early stage. Once identified, the area should be cleaned thoroughly, coated with a rust inhibiting system such as "POR-15®" and then painted. (Information on POR-15® can be found on their website at "[www.por15.com](http://www.por15.com)")
- Remove water from the floor where the apparatus sits. Use a fan to keep the area dry.
- Hose out the radiator with plain water.
- Keep mud flaps in good repair to minimize salt/chemical spray.
- Avoid spicing into wiring. If repairs are needed use shrink terminals.
- Clean out electrical connectors regularly with plain water and re-grease with dielectric grease.

Please feel free to share this bulletin with your customers.