

## “KEEPING PACE” - #69

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### DRIVER FALLS ASLEEP IN 0.6 MILE:



The photograph shows the area where a Ford F-700 truck veered off a country road near Fargo, South Dakota. After the accident, it was observed that the steering gear had fractured. The driver claimed that the fractured steering gear had caused the accident, but an analysis of the steering gear indicated that the fracture occurred as a result of the ensuing accident, rather than from defects in the parts of the steering gear.

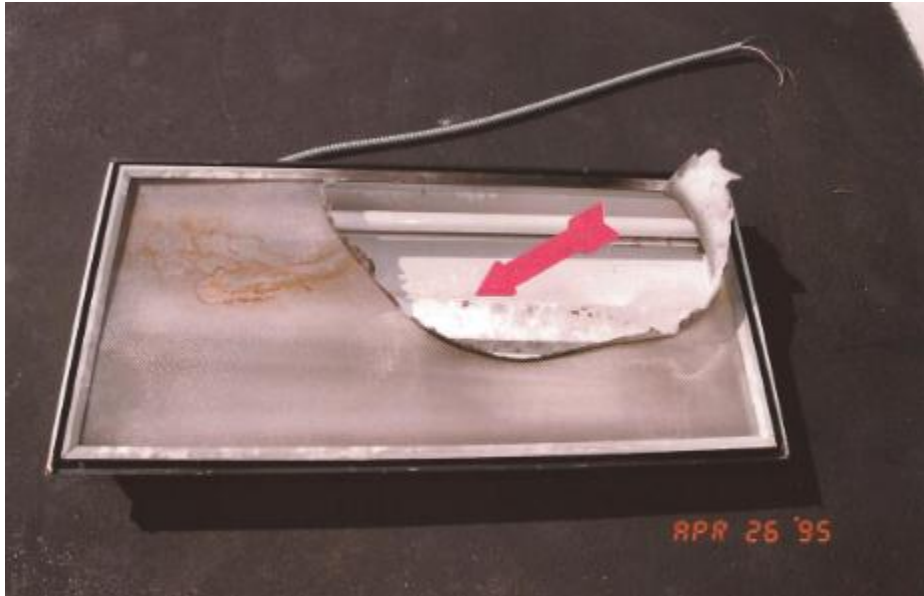
This case is interesting, because the driver fell asleep and went off the road after traveling just 0.6 mile beyond a crossroad where he had stopped for a stop sign.

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### COPPER GLOBULES IGNITE PLASTIC:



This photograph is a view of a fluorescent fixture (upside down) which had been located in the ceiling of a former IBM plant in Lexington, Kentucky. During this small fire, all that burned was this fluorescent fixture and an upholstered chair below it. No smokers were present in the room.

A short circuit arc had occurred in the fuse-holder shown by the arrow, and the flying copper globules from that arc had dropped 2 ½ inches onto the plastic cover to ignite it. There was no other source of heating power anywhere besides this arc.

This case proved beyond a doubt that flying copper globules can ignite solid plastic.

Sincerely,



Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.  
Forensic Engineer