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BRAKE FAILURE 1998 FORD TAURUS

Brake failure happened twice on this 1998 Ford Taurus. The first occurrence was during the summer of 2002. I was coming out of a parking lot and upon applying the brakes the brake pedal went to the floor. I was not near other automobiles or people and was able to bring the vehicle to a safe stop. The brakes returned to normal and I proceeded on my way. The brakes were checked and the emergency brake was repaired and shoes replaced. On November 18, 2002 I was exiting the freeway and again upon applying the brakes the brake pedal went to the floor. The exit ramp was downhill and since the brakes were not functioning the speed of the automobile increased and I went sailing across the intersection, through a chain link fence, hit a concrete sign and landed in a parking lot. The vehicle was completely destroyed. The air bags did deploy but not as usually shown in crashes and they emitted a horrible odor and brown smoke. Had there been a passenger in the front seat, I am certain they would have been severely injured. I did have a child with me - he was restrained in his car seat in the rear right of the vehicle and was not injured, however the mental stress as to what could have happened to my grandson is a burden. The accident report states that upon inspection the brakes seemed to be okay. However, I can testify to the fact that those brakes did not function on either occasion. There was something mechanically wrong with the brakes on this vehicle and action should be taken so that this does not happen again and injure other persons