



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

To Report Vehicle Safety Defects

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

(1-888-327-4236)

INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100161

Date Received

Repository

2004 APR -8 12:46
25-FEB-2004

Reference No.
10059749

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

VIRGINIA BEACH

State

VA

Zip Code

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO

In the absence of an authorized signature, please provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner

Date 03/29/2004

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

1MEBM6ZF8JH

Make

MERCURY

Model

COUGAR

Model Year

1988

Date Purchased

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Engine:

No. Cylinders 8

Fuel Type:

GAS

Original Owner

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type

Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code

191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Multiple Failures: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
08-AUG-2003

Failure Mileage

Failure Speed

LEFT FRONT TIRE OF ANOTHER VEHICLE FAILED THAT DRIVER LOST CONTROL LEADING TO AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING MY VEHICLE.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make
FIRESTONE

Tire Model (Name or Number)
FIREHAWK

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
32X11/50R15

DOT No. (Example: DOTMAL9ABC036)
VDYK4RA493

Original Equipment
 Prior Repair

Failure Location:

CENTER TREAD SEPARATED FROM REST OF TIRE

Tire Component Code
191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

Yes No

Fire

Yes No

Number of Persons Injured

Number of Deaths

Reported to Police

1

Y

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

CONSUMER COMPLAINED ABOUT A TIRE THAT FAILED FROM ANOTHER VEHICLE. FRONT LEFT TIRE TREAD SEPARATED FROM A CHEVROLET BLAZER 1984, AND CAUSED THE VEHICLE TO LOSE CONTROL. VEHICLE HIT TWO OTHER VEHICLES, ONE BEING THE CONSUMER'S VEHICLE, AND CAUSED SEVERE DAMAGE. DURING THE CRASH CONSUMER'S WRIST WAS BROKEN, AND VEHICLE WAS TOTALED. *AK

SEE ENCLOSED COPY OF JANUARY 8, 2004 LETTER FROM BRIDGE-STONE AMERICAS HOLDING, INC, WHEREIN THEIR "... ENGINEERS DID COMPLETE THEIR EXAMINATION AND FOUND NO LEGAL LIABILITY ON THE PART OF OUR INSURED FOR THIS LOSS." THEY ALSO STATE: "NO MANUFACTURER DEFECT FOUND." THEY SEEM TO THINK IT NORMAL FOR TREAD TO COME OFF A TIRE & CAUSE AN ACCIDENT WITH INJURIES

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-502 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

1200 Firestone Parkway
Akron, OH 44317-0001
Phone: 330-379-4093
FAX: 330-379-4094
Email: Phillip.Lealey@bha.com

January 8, 2004

Mr. O. L. Gilbert, Esq.
Gilbert & Albiston
580 East Main Street, Suite 330
Norfolk, VA 23510

RE: Your Client: [REDACTED]
Other Driver: Gary Lewis Taylor
Date of Incident: 8/8/03
Our Claim No.: 636758

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Thank you for agreeing to have the subject tire shipped to our location for inspection.

Our engineers did complete their examination and found no legal liability on the part of our insured for this loss. Our Engineering Department confirms the tire at issue, FIREHAWK R4S, DOT No: VDYK4RA493, exhibits evidence of irregular wear and underinflation (i.e. beads are shiny and blue with prominent compression grooves). No manufacturer defect found.

We must, therefore, respectfully deny this claim.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Lealey L. Phillips, Paralegal
Law Department - Claims

Received
JAN 17 2004