



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-DDT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100184

Date Received

Repository

2004 MAR 23 PM 3:04
01-MAR-2004

Reference No.
10061042

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
City: BATTLE GROUND State: WA Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Daytime 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 authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner: [REDACTED] Date: 3/11/04

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side: [REDACTED]
Make: FORD Model: F250 Model Year: 2000
Date Purchased: [REDACTED] Dealer's Name and Telephone Number: [REDACTED] Engine: No. Cylinders: [REDACTED] Fuel Type: [REDACTED]
Original Owner: Dealer's City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Transmission Type: Antilock Brakes Cruise Control Powertrain: [REDACTED] Vehicle Component Code: 192000 TIRES:SIDEWALL
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s): 22-AUG-2003 Failure Mileage: 34200 Failure Speed: 70

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make: FIRESTONE Tire Model (Name or Number): STEELTEX RADIAL TIRE Tire Size (Example P215/65R15): LT265/75R16
DOT No. (Example: DOTM198ABC036): 8XWBRAZ3003 Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: DRIVER SIDE REAR
Tire Component Code: 192000 TIRES:SIDEWALL Tire Failure Type: [REDACTED]

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: [REDACTED] Date Manufactured: [REDACTED] Model No./Name: [REDACTED]
Seat Type: [REDACTED] Installation System: [REDACTED]
Child Seat Component Code: [REDACTED] Failed Part: [REDACTED]

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: 0 Number of Deaths: 0 Reported to Police: N

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).

WHILE DRIVING AT 70 MPH CONSUMER HEARD A FLAPPING SOUND COMING FROM THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE. AFTER COMING TO A STOP CONSUMER DISCOVERED THAT THE SIDEWALL RUPTURED ON THE LEFT REAR TIRE. DEALER EXAMINED THE TIRE AND CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE TIRE *AK.

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

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-579) 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.

On or sometime around Aug. 22 2003, my family and I were taking a little vacation out to the coast of Oregon. When it came time to leave I had to stop and get gas so I checked the tire pressures on my truck, since we were going to be driving for a couple of hours. They were all good and at 75psi. My wife had to work that day so I would pick her up at the airport, then we would leave from there. While I was going south over the 205 bridge I heard a thumping noise kind of like a helicopter. At the time I thought it was the coast guard crossing overhead. I was going around 65-70 mph. I looked in my driver side mirror and saw that my tire was flat. So I pulled over to the left shoulder because I was in the fast lane.

Now the nightmare begins changing a flat tire on the bridge. Changing a flat tire did not bother me. What did bother me is the fact that the other traffic was still going 65-70 mph, all I could think about was somebody not paying attention and drifting over in to the shoulder and taking me and my ^{two} little girls in the truck out. I got out of the truck and a car that was behind me stopped. He waved his cell phone at me. I told him thank you because my wife had our only cell phone. I then called her and left a message telling her I would be late because I would be changing a flat tire on the 205 bridge. He left and I went back to change the tire. This would be my first tire that I changed because it went flat going down a paved road. It did not bother me because I work for a major airline as a mechanic and I do all my own preventive maintenance on our vehicles, like brake jobs and tire rotations. But I had never used the jack in the truck to do work. Well guess where the jack is located on my truck? Yep behind the rear seat, right side. Meanwhile, both of the girls car seats hold the seat from going forward to gain access to the jack. So now I have to take them out of their car seats. Not at all happy to do be doing that. Plus the door on the truck, when open was hanging over the white line. At that time I said to my self it was not worth trying to save the rim so I got back in the truck to try to get it off the bridge. I had no luck. The traffic was too bad, there was no way I could go fast enough to cross all four lanes without causing an accident. I then got it as close to the guard rail as I could but leaving enough access to change the tire. You would think a police officer would show up, but because this bridge is part of Washington and Oregon they do not patrol it much except to set up a speed trap. The only time I wished there had been a cop and there wasn't one to be found. Well now its time to change this tire, so I released the seatbelt part of the girls car seats and slid them forward to get the jack out. I went to get the spare tire from under the truck using the tooling for the jack not knowing that there was a key in the glove box to go on the end of the tool to lower the jack. By this time a car stopped and he gave me a hand. Both of us were trying to figure out why the hell this spare tire would not lower down. He removed the plastic guide and discovered that you needed a key. Now it was all down hill. The tire was changed semi- NASCAR style in about five minutes. I used this Good Samaritan's cell phone to call my wife to tell her that I was done gave him \$40. And I thanked God that nobody hit us.

The next day I called Firestone and told them what happened. They told me where the firestone dealers were that are close to our home in Battle Ground. When we got back from the coast I figured I would get a new tire, no problems asked. However, at the first dealership, they told me that there were no defects in the tire and that I must have hit something, and would have to pay for the new tire. I know I did not hit anything plus don't you think you would hit it with the front tire first? I do. I left there very mad and

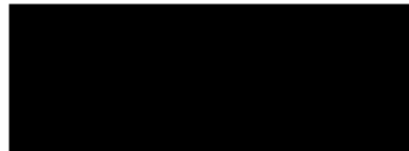
went and got an opinion from Les Shwabb Tires. They could not ^{Tell} what caused the tire to go flat because the tire was in such bad shape. I went to the other Firestone dealer in town. They were much easier to work with. He told me that if I would buy the tire warranty on all four tires that he would eat the cost of the new tire. So that is what I did.

Several months later I see on the news that Firestone is recalling the same tire that is on my truck. I thought to myself: "See? I knew I did not hit something and that there was something wrong with that tire!"

Doing some more research I find out that they are just recalling the load range D tire. While looking on the internet I found several F250 with the same tire failure. And one Excursion. I called firestone to try to get some info. From them is to what kind of failure that is caused the accidents Did the tread separate or did the sidewall fail? But they all try to pass the buck saying they don't know.

I did not take any pictures but what I have attached photos on what it looked like.

Note first picture is a Excursion all others are F250



Firestone Tire Recall



Legal Information Center



Attached are 2 photographs of a 16 inch Firestone Steeltex AT tire that suddenly failed after only 2508 miles on my 2000 Excursion while traveling at 60 MPH. Thank the Lord that it was a rear tire that exploded! Had this happened on a front wheel, I would probably be picking daisies by the roots!

Can you believe that this tire is not included in the recall?

Seriously Injured? Contact a Tire Defect Attorney.

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Read Exclusive Accident Reports | Recall News | Overview | Home Page

Firestone Tire Recall



Legal Information Center



Good afternoon,

I would like to know if you have any one in particular we could contact with a tire problem, seems the Firestone store here has determined our problem was caused by a "Puncture, causing a slow leak, led to the blow out....." now that is their determination.

Personally I've seen a lot of tire blow outs, and never a single one that looks like this, just so happens this tire was on our brand new F250 just purchased a couple of

months ago, there was a "bump" on the sidewall which my husband had questioned the dealer about,

we were advised that there was absolutely nothing wrong with the tire it was simply a "manufacturing mold mark", the dealer also showed us several other brand new trucks with the same "bump/manufacturing mold mark" on the tires of those vehicles.

My husband left on a hunting trip last week into Canada with several friends, on the way home last Sunday morning somewhere in Michigan, a few hours from home around 2:30 in the morning, low and behold they had a blow out, absolutely no warning and it just happened to be the same tire we had questioned.

Gratefully no one was hurt, it did however in addition to being an inconvenience cause some minor damage to the brand new running boards, and brand new mud flaps that hubby just had installed, no to mention of course the tire just plain exploded! No the tread didn't separate the entire sidewall is missing though!

While checking the list of tires on the website where I found your e-mail addy, we found a matching "tire size and Plant code number" although this is merely in the list for "Consumer Advisory" the Firestone dealer here doesn't intend to replace the tire, or anything else, (since it hasn't yet been recalled) we still need to check the other 3 tires plus the spare for matching Plant code numbers. My concern is my husband is retiring in a couple of months and we will be moving into the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas, quite frankly I don't care to play "YOU BET YOUR LIFE" on those tires since seeing this one! Oh by the way the mileage on the tire is 6,000 miles.

This is the serial, model number and size of the tire,



DOT VDW8 LXL 1900 008062

Steeltex Radial A/T

LT 265/75 R16

and I have attached 2 digital pictures of the tire, now is there anyone else I can contact to see if we can get some answers or help on having tires replaced, of course if all else fails we will replace out of pocket, but seems only fair when spending \$35,000 on a new vehicle that it should come with dependable tires!

Our many thanks in advance for any suggestions or help you might have to offer.

Kindest Regards, Mr. & Mrs. James V.H.

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Firestone Tire Recall



Legal Information Center



Well I guess it's my turn. On 10-27-00 at about 10:30 PM we were on an interstate traveling about 70 mph. Without warning the left rear tire blew out. After stopping we noticed the sidewall separated from the tread. Our truck is a 2000 Ford F-250 with 9000 miles. After some research I found several photographs of Steeltex tire failure and whoa, they look like our tire. The Firestone dealer said they aren't on the recall list so basically, oh well. It's just and investigation he said. I asked if they will wait as long to recall these tires as the others. I guess the death toll hasn't reached 100+ yet. Here's the photos, you judge for yourself.

Very angry,

Matt

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Firestone Tire Recall



Legal Information Center

Another reason Firestone needs to look at all tires. This tire was purchased on a brand new F250 in December 1999. It had only 14,000 miles.
From Diana P.



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Firestone Tire Recall

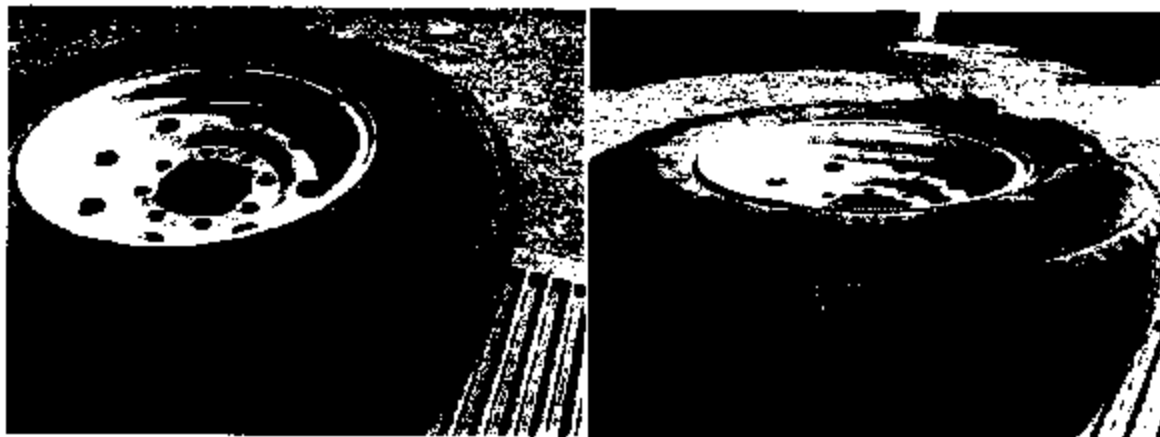


Legal Information Center



Dear Sirs: This report concerns Firestone Steeltex Radial A/T tires LT 235/85 R16 M/S. These tires were purchased new last year and were installed on my 1996 Ford 350 pickup truck. The tires were rotated, rebalanced and tire pressures checked every 5000 miles. On Saturday, 15 October 2000, the right front tire sidewall ballooned out in several spots such that the tire went flat. Fortunately, I was driving slow and was able to stop. The truck was turned in this morning and the other tires inspected by the dealer. All of the tires were beginning to exhibit the same ballooning of the side wall. One of the technicians stated that he thought the belts on the sidewall were failing. In any event, the tires are being replaced by another make as these are unsafe and could have caused a bad accident.

Sincerely, Malcolm D. W
Purcellville, Virginia



1800 367-3872

Address _____
City _____

BRENDA DENHAM
SALESMAN, NORINE B LE CITY

RETAIL DEPARTMENT

Contract Number _____

(Include County and Zip Code)

Creditor/Seller Name and Address

COUNTRY FORD 503-251-3497
1313 SE 12TH AVE 7899
PORTLAND OR 97202
1984-285-7767

Year Make Body Type Color
1984 FORD TRUCK WHITE



Vehicle Identification No. _____
Title No. _____

- Pass. Car Van Light Truck Heavy Truck Commercial Agricultural

I am hereby authorizing the policies or certificates issued by the Company named _____ to describe the terms and conditions.
I understand that the policies or certificates issued by the Company named _____ do not include coverage for _____
I understand that the policies or certificates issued by the Company named _____ do not include coverage for _____
I understand that the policies or certificates issued by the Company named _____ do not include coverage for _____

Insurer _____ Insured(s) _____
Insurer _____ Insurer _____ Insurer _____

Physical damage insurance is required, but I may obtain it from anyone I wish. If I obtain it from the Associated Company named below, the cost of this insurance, for the term _____ months, is shown in the table below.

Insurance	Term	Rate	Deductible
Optional Service Contract: The cost of this contract is shown in the table below.	_____ months	_____	_____
Optional Mechanical Breakdown Protection: The cost of this protection is shown in the table below.	_____ months	_____	_____

Warning: The purchase of protection referred to in this contract does not include coverage for public liability, bodily injury, or property damage (other than the vehicle noted above) caused by _____ or others.

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**