



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 25Z

Date Received

2004 JUN -4
04-MAY-2004

Repository

Reference No.
100720380

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City LAKEPORT State CA Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED]

E-mail Address [REDACTED]

Evening Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA, in the absence of an authorized representative of the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
Signature of Owner [REDACTED] name or address to the vehicle manufacturer. Date 5/25/04

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
1FYMK21T31EB26057 Make FORD Model F250 Model Year 2000

Date Purchased 12/18/00 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number [REDACTED] Engine: No. Cylinders 8 Fuel Type: D
Original Owner [REDACTED] Dealer's City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]

Transmission Type Antilock Brakes Cruise Control Powertrain [REDACTED] Vehicle Component Code 191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 04-MAY-2004 Failure Mileage 50,000 Failure Speed 55 Steel Tex Radial A/t Lt 265 R16

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make FIRESTONE Tire Model (Name or Number) STEELTEX RADIAL Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) Lt 265 - R16
DOT No. (Example: DOTM18ABC036) VNUX1XL 4400 Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location: Los Angeles Co.
Tire Component Code 191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT Tire Failure Type Tread Separation

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 55 MPH A LOUD NOISE WAS HEARD FROM REAR. VEHICLE STARTED SHAKING VIOLENTLY. CONSUMER WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE, AND PULLED OVER. CONSUMER NOTICED THAT THE RIGHT PASSENGER SIDE TIRE TREAD SEPARATED FROM THE WHEEL. THE DRIVER CALLED ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE TO CHANGE TIRE, FIRESTONE, STEELTEX RADIAL LTD. *AK

See over

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.

Narrative Description of incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

While traveling approx. 55 MPH, while towing my trailer, the truck began to shake violently. Upon stopping, it was observed that the right rear tire had lost its tread/belt. The tire still retained 78 lbs of air pressure. The tire was an original equipment tire with less than 50,000 miles accumulated and 6/32 of tread depth left. The tire experienced a catastrophic failure which could have resulted in death/injury.

I had the tire inspected by two local Firestone dealers who reported that the tire showed no signs of abuse, under inflation, overloading etc. Following Firestone/Bridgestone's instructions I shipped the tire to Fern. for their inspection. Three days later I received a form letter with Firestone's denial of any liability and the statement that the tire had been abused.

I was the original owner of this tire and based on my knowledge, this tire had never been abused or misused in any way. The tire has a design flaw or a manufacturing flaw. Like the Load Range D tires of the same design, this tire should be RECALLED before it causes injuries / or deaths.

Damage to truck & trailer equaled \$2,973.00, covered by insurance

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 78173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590



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<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/odiv>



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and dial toll free at

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

**VEHICLE
OWNER'S
QUESTIONNAIRE**



RECEIVED
MAY 25 2004
GABRIEL