

Hazelwood, Mo.
Oct 15, 2004

TO: Fleetwood Folding Trailers, Inc.
258 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 111
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

CC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Apache Village

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing to you about the problem we had with our Coleman Folding Trailer.

This trailer is a 2003 Bayside Elite ,vehicle identification number is 4CP678H1237242089, was purchased from Apache Village Hazelwood, Mo., April 17 2003.

The roof collapsed on raising. Fortunately no one was inside, this failure is potentially a fatal hazard.

At the time of the collapse the shaft the hand crank drives came out in my hand. When looking at the shaft there was a roll pin sheared on one side of the small end of the shaft. {internal end}. Looking at the roll pin it was driven in less than half diameter of the drive shaft, we have pictures.

What frightens me is that the set up before the collapse my wife was inside, I found the door did not fit because the roof was not up fully. I went outside and cranked another two turns to raise the roof. If the next set up it collapsed, how close was it to failure at that time. The violence the roof fell could have killed her.

Aside from the danger was the great inconvenience and great aggravation and additional cost of lodging and meals and towing an unusable trailer great distance.

At the time of the collapse the tenting material hung outside of the roof. This caused the material to collect a lot of road dirt.

Showing the drive shaft to a mechanic at Apache Village he said the roll pin was the wrong pin.

The lift system was repaired by Apache Village. I was disappointed that no attempt was made to clean the dirty fabric caused by the roof failure.

My wife now said that she will never get in again. We have lost all faith in this trailer.

I wonder how many other Coleman/ Fleetwood trailers have this problem?

I have contacted the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sincerely,

NAR
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11/8/04