



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 1367

Date Received 2005 JAN 14 10-NOV-2004	Repository <input type="checkbox"/>
	Reference No. 10099785

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name	Daytime Telephone Number	E-mail Address
Address		
City MARION	State AR	Zip Code
	Evening Telephone Number	@aol.com

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 or address to the vehicle manufacturer.  
Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date 12/31/04

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side 2MELM75W5V	Make MERCURY	Model MARQUIS	Model Year 1997
Date Purchased 10/04	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number AUCTION		Engine: No: Cylinders 8
Original Owner <input type="checkbox"/>	Dealer's City	State	Zip Code
Transmission Type AUTOMATIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cruise Control	Powertrain REAR WHEEL DRIVE	Vehicle Component Code 063200 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING: EXHAUST SYSTEM: MANIFOLD
Multiple Failure: 1			

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 09-NOV-2004	Failure Mileage 85304	Failure Speed 65
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ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make	Tire Model (Name or Number)	Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Prior Repair	Failure Location:
Tire Component Code	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 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Number of Persons Injured 0	Number of Deaths 0	Reported to Police N
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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).

PLASTIC INTAKE MANIFOLD CRACKED. WHILE DRIVING ON THE HIGHWAY AT 65 MPH SMOKE CAME OUT FROM UNDER THE HOOD. CONSUMER PULLED OVER, AND HAD THE VEHICLE TOWED HOME. THIS WAS A COMMON FAILURE WITH THESE MANIFOLDS. THE MANUFACTURER NOR THE DEALER WERE PROVIDING ANY ASSISTANCE. THEY CLAIMED THE PART WAS NOT UNDER WARRANTY. \*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 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.

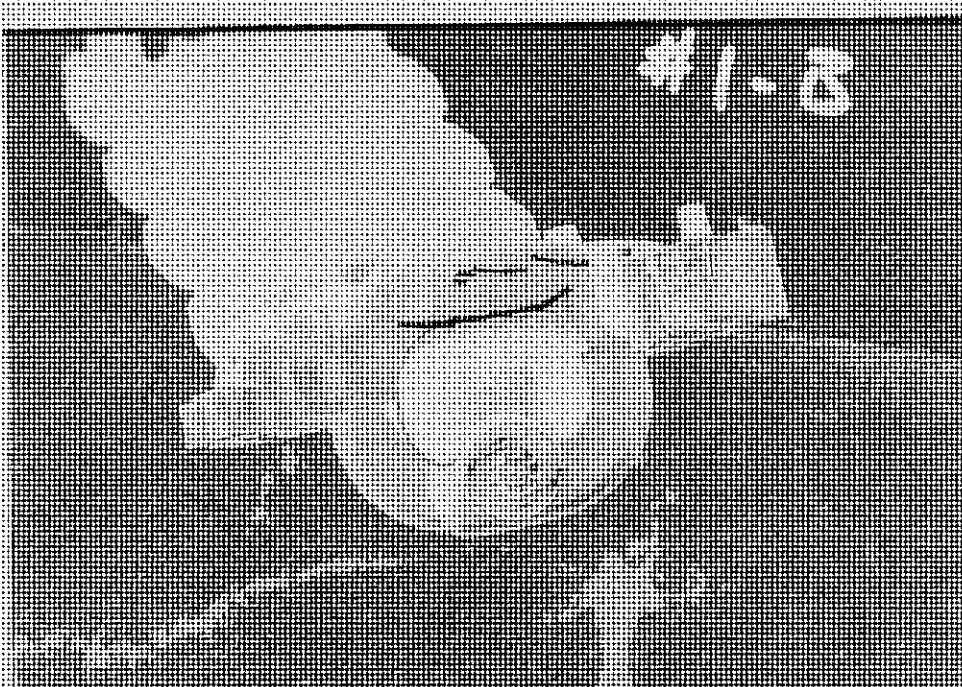
Dear DOT,

I am a retired ASE certified master Mechanic. I worked for the city of West Memphis for two years as a junior Mechanic, I worked as a professional diesel Mechanic for one year where I got my certification, and I went back to the city of West Memphis for two more years as senior Mechanic. I have been in the electronic medical equipment repair business for the last twenty years. I service and repair all of my friends and families cars and keep in touch with my friends in the Mechanic business. I purchased this car at an auction in October of this year. It had 82,000 miles on it and was in great condition. I purchased this car for my wife and she put several thousand miles on it with no problem. We live out in the county and have to get on the interstate to go to town. At 85,304 miles I was driving it onto the interstate from the on ramp; I gave it enough gas for the transmission to kick down into passing gear. The car increased its speed to 65 miles an hour and I was about to let off the gas when the intake manifold blew. Steam poured out from under the hood and covered my windshield blinding me until I could turn on my windshield wipers. I pulled over to the side of the road and turn off the engine. I called a tow truck and had it towed home. I talked to my parts supplier and several of my Mechanic friends and they all said that Ford was having a problem with this manifold. I called Ford and they said they were having no problems with this manifold. They quoted me \$500.00 for the part and \$300.00 labor to install it. I called my parts supplier and he quoted me \$300.00 for the part and I installed it myself.

This new manifold was made by a third party supplier and the parts man said that Ford had to be having a lot of trouble with this part for a third party supplier to go to the trouble of making one. The original manifold was made from plastic and the backside of the alternator was bolted two it for support. I believe it was the stress from the alternator that made the manifold crack. The replacement plastic manifold has a piece of cast metal added to it to support the alternator. I have included pictures that show the crack, I marked the crack with a silver marker so you can see them better. My finger is pointing at the same place on both manifolds; you will notice the one installed on the motor has a metal piece on it.

I wonder if this is has caused any serious accidents?





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).