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March 10, 2005
United States Department of Transportation
400 7th Street Southwest
Washington D. C. 20590

2005 MAR - 3 PM 7:49

This correspondence is in reference to the Ford Motor Company recall of cruise control release switches located on the braking system on various Ford models of 2000-2004 production.

I am the Parks and Public Works Supervisor for the City of Taylor Lake Village on a part-time basis. My full-time employment is with the Houston Fire Department as a Texas firefighter and as a Texas Peace Officer. My assignment is as an Arson Investigator to determine cause and origin of structural and vehicular fires.

On March 9, 2005, I took the City of Taylor Lake Village 1995 Ford F150 pickup truck to NASA Road Chevron for a yearly Texas Vehicle Inspection. During the inspection it was required to lift the hood to inspect the engine components required to be in place. During this inspection Alfonso Santillan, the Texas Licensed Vehicle Inspector, and I observed that the brake fluid reservoir was low and the cruise control release switch was covered with fluid. I disengaged the plug from the switch and observed that the interior of the switch was full of brake fluid. After completing and passing the vehicle inspection, I drove to Adams Ford located in La Porte, Texas. Amanda Caskey, a service advisor, informed me that the vehicle is not included in the current recall and gave me the Ford Motor Company telephone number (1-800-392-3673) to register a complaint. I called Ford Motor Company to inform them of the switch failure. The representative taking the complaint, Norman, reiterated that the vehicle is not included in the recall and stated that the city should have the vehicle repaired.

Amanda
4/8/05

The vehicle involved in this complaint is a 1995 Ford F150 with only 32,665 miles. The city of Taylor Lake Village is a small municipality located southeast of Houston, Texas within Harris County. Due to the small size of our municipality, the mileage is extremely low and the vehicle has been well maintained. The vehicle's records of maintenance have been diligently recorded and all records are intact.

As an Arson Investigator with extensive training and having investigated hundreds of fires during the course of my employment, I am aware of the importance of the evidence that this example could provide. I am contacting your department because this vehicle is an excellent candidate as an exemplar of the need to expand the recall currently in place for the accidental fires caused by the cruise control release switch failure. Included is a copy of the Texas Vehicle Inspection Report that has the pertinent vehicle information.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience any directions that you would like us to follow in retaining this evidence. We are willing to assist your department in any way in resolving this issue with expanding the Ford Motor Company recall of the defective switch.

CC: Ford Motor Company
Customer Relationship Center
P.O. Box 6248
Dearborn, MI 48126