

[REDACTED]
Nashville, TN
[REDACTED]

Added to
10/21/765 (54087)
(Ref 10/21/696)



May 25, 2005

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
NSA-10.01, 400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear NHTSA,

Thank You for your reply. I doubt anything will be done now because of the length of time. I still worry about the problem I encountered with my Toyota pickup. At the time I tried my best to notify all my friends, strangers, or anyone who might drive a 1995 Toyota pickup. The drag link snapped in December 2002 just before Christmas. I rented a car to go home on leave. Back then I was presently active duty in the Air Force stationed at Pope AFB NC.

I will enclose a couple pictures and previous e-mails I sent out. I guess what troubles me the most is: My truck has never been abused. I'm the original owner; it was purchased on March 9, 1995 in Valdosta, GA. I was stationed at Moody AFB GA from 1994 to 1997. It presently has almost 168,000 miles and about the only times I've used 4x4 is in the ice/snow. In North Carolina I used it a few times on Ft. Bragg drop zones which are deep in sand. If I had been the type to abuse it by racing over mountainous terrain, dips, ditches, rocks, etc...I would probably feel different.

Sorry again to bother you, the recent Toyota recall had me thinking about it. I wish I had notified you back in 2003. The mechanic that replaced my drag link made a phone call to Toyota but nothing ever materialized. I even took the drag link to a dealership. But that info is in the attached messages. My concern was possibly saving lives, and I pray and hope my 1995 was the ONLY one. I wanted no money just some safety message for Toyota to check 1995 pickup truck drag links for cracks. I still have the drag link, not sure of the significance but the number 270 is stamped on the side. I can at least rest some now, that you are aware.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

205 JUN -2 AM 3:17

Ameyant
6/3/05

YAHOO! MAIL

Print - Close Window

Subject: RE: 1995 defective "drag link" -DOUG-SR#1-416665**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2005 09:44:14 -0400**From:** "nhtsa.vsh" <webmaster@nhtsa.dot.gov>**To:** [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Department of Transportation's Vehicle Safety Hotline Information Center.

Additional information to your original complaint (e.g. photographs, service invoices, police reports) may be mailed in to the Department of Transportation along with a printed copy of your complaint. The Department of Transportation's address is:

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
NSA-10.01, 400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

If you need additional information on our services please feel free to contact us at 1-888-327-4236.

Thank you,

NHTSA.dot.gov Response Team

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2005 7:55 AM
To: nhtsa.vsh
Subject: 1995 defective "drag link"

From: [REDACTED]

Comments:

Hi Sir,

Is there anyone I can send a few pic's of my 1995 Toyota Xtracab SR5 4X4

pickup truck defective "drag link". It is NOT a Tacoma, it is just a pickup manufactured in 1/95.

Tacoma's did start selling in early 1995. However mine is just a regular SR5 pickup. My (ODI Number) is 10121765. I'm sure there is nothing you guys can do now...but I still worry about a possibility of another time bomb...on another "drag link" snapping. I searched ALL the recalls and the only one even close to my problem is a 1995 Tacoma 4X2 (2 wheel drive) dealing with a beefed up suspension which is NOT the problem I encountered.

Thanks for any help you can provide.

John C. Groth

(Cliff)

Topic
Safety
Date Created
02/11/2003 03:11 PM
Date Updated
02/14/2003 10:05 AM
Vehicle ID Number
JT4VN13G855155617
Dealership Name
Five Points Toyota
Dealership City
Valdosta
Dealership State
GA

broken drag link

Discussion Thread

Response (JasonS)

02/14/2003 10:05 AM

Thank you for contacting Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

We apologize for the drag link damage on your Truck.

We have researched your concerns and were unable to locate any Special Service Campaigns or common conditions that would relate to this occurrence.

In order to properly assess the repairs on your vehicle, we recommend you contact your local Toyota dealership to further evaluate your Truck.

Our dealership technicians are specialized in the diagnosis and repair of Toyota vehicles. They are provided with extensive training and have access to state-of-the-art equipment to help in the accurate diagnosis of your vehicle. Also, if necessary, we provide additional support to assist our technicians in resolving unusual vehicle concerns.

Your email has been documented at our National Headquarters under file #20030214076. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

National Customer Relations

Customer (John Groth)

02/12/2003 02:07 PM

> Customer (John Groth) - 02/11/2003 03:11 PM
 > I AM VERY MUCH concerned about a possible
 > DEFECT...I own a 95 Toyota SR5, 4x4, king cab, V-6.
 > I am in the Air Force and live in Fayetteville, NC
 > now...the other night I was pulling into the
 > shoppette parking lot on base and as I turned my
 > steering wheel left...A LOUD POP SOUND WAS HEARD AND
 > LOST ALL STEERING and almost hit a car. I started to
 > panic...it was late and left my truck in the parking
 > lot. Next morning i got a rental and returned to
 > base. My friend knows a good wrecker company and got
 > my truck towed. When the wrecker guy arrived I
 > explained what happen...he ask me to start the
 > engine and turn my steering wheel left and
 > right...HE SAW the problem immediately the drag link
 > broke. after my truck was towed to the shop...my
 > friend John says SHIT never seen this before!!!
 > Taking a closer look at it...he said this drag link
 > was not machined/casted right...it sure looks like a
 > DEFECT!
 > the place where it broke is half smooth brown and
 > the other half is bright silver...50% of brown and
 > 50% silver color looking at it.
 > i got several pic's of it...wanna send them to you.
 > I WAS VERY FORNTUNATE TO BE GOING VERY SLOW when it
 > POPPED...versus interstate driving
 > I AM CONCERNED OF POSSIBLY OTHER 95 TRUCKS THAT MAY
 > HAVE THIS PROBLEM.
 >
 > Please REPLY ASAP!

John Groth
 910-223-7561
 910-286-8129 cell

910-394-7232 work

>
>

Customer (John Groth)

02/11/2003 03:11 PM

I AM VERY MUCH concerned about a possible DEFECT...I own a 95 Toyota SR5, 4x4, king cab, V-6. I am in the Air Force and live in Fayetteville, NC now...the other night I was pulling into the shoppette parking lot on base and as I turned my steering wheel left...A LOUD POP SOUND WAS HEARD AND LOST ALL STEERING and almost hit a car. I started to panic...It was late and left my truck in the parking lot. Next morning I got a rental and returned to base. My friend knows a good wrecker company and got my truck towed. When the wrecker guy arrived I explained what happen...he ask me to start the engine and turn my steering wheel left and right...HE SAW the problem immediately the drag link broke. after my truck was towed to the shop...my friend John says SHIT never seen this before!!!

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Please REPLY ASAP!



Office of Defects Investigation

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1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)

TTY

- 1-800-424-9153 or
- 1-202-484-5238

Search Results
Report Date : May 23, 2005 at 01:08 PM
[New Search](#)
ODI Numbers 10121765
[Print Version](#)
Searched:
Results : 1 | All records displayed

Make : TOYOTA	Model : PICKUP	Year : 1995
Manufacturer : TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA, INC.		
Crash : No	Fire : No	Number of Injuries: 0
ODI ID Number : 10121765		Date of Failure: January 7, 2003
VIN : JT4VN13G8S5...		
Component: STEERING;LINKAGES;LINK;DRAG;CONNECTION		
Summary:		
LUCKILY I WAS GOING VERY SLOW INTO A PARKING SPOT....IF THIS HAD HAPPENED GOING DOWN I-95 TRAVELING 70+ I WOULDN'T BE HERE RIGHT NOW. TAKE CARE, JOHN C. GROTH HI CHRIS, THE LATEST RECALL REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING. EVEN THOUGH MY TOYOTA IS A 1995...MY DRAG LINK SNAPPED IN DEC 02. THE FWD MESSAGE IS ONE I REPLIED TO A FRIEND OF MINE. AND THE TOYOTA DEALERSHIP IS NOT YOURS....IT WAS ONE IN FAYETTEVILLE, NC WHEN I WAS LIVING THERE WHILE IN THE AIR FORCE. TAKE CARE, CLIFF DATE: FRI, 20 MAY 2005 10:08:14 -0700 (PDT) FROM: "CLIFF GROTH" SUBJECT: RE: DRAG LINK TO: SCOTT.STACK@GMAIL.COM HI SCOTT!, YEA I HAD A DRAG LINK THAT JUST SNAPPED! I WAS PULLING INTO THE SHOPPETTE PARKING LOT ON POPE AND SOON AS I TURNED LEFT INTO A SPOT....BANG IT SNAPPED. LUCKILY I WAS GOING VERY SLOW...BECAUSE ONCE IT SNAPPED I LOST STEERING AND WAS NOT GOING WHERE I WANTED...HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARD A PARKED CAR. THE STEERING WHEEL WAS FREE WHEELING! I E-MAILED TOYOTA AND SENT PICTURES...THEY SEEMED THE LEAST BIT CONCERNED. SO I WENT TO THE TOYOTA DEALERSHIP...AND THEY ACCUSED ME OF HITTING A POT HOLE...LOL AFTER THAT I GAVE UP....AND JUST TRIED TO NOTIFY ALL MY FRIENDS WHO MIGHT HAVE A 1995 MODEL. TO AT LEAST GET THE DRAG LINK CHECKED FOR CRACKS. RED LINE AUTO SHOP JUST DOWN MANCHESTER RD. OFF POPE DID MY REPAIR WORK. THEY SAID A		

"DRAG LINK" SHOULD NEVER SNAP OR BREAK...PARTS ATTACHED TO IT MIGHT WEAR OUT, BUT A DRAG LINK IS MADE TO OUTLAST THE VEHICLE. WELL DIDN'T MEAN TO WRITE A BOOK...NICE HEARING FROM YOU. I THOUGHT OF MY DRAG LINK THE SECOND I HEARD ABOUT THAT TOYOTA RECALL TOO. MY TOYOTA IS A 1995. HAVE ATTACHED SOME PICTURES...I THINK I SENT THEM TO YOU BEFORE, BUT IF NOT HERE ARE A FEW.TAKE CARE MY FRIEND,CLIFF SCOTT WROTE:CLIFF, DIDN'T YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE DRAG LINK ON YOUR TOYOTA? I WAS THINKING ABOUT THE RECALL AND WONDERED IF THAT WAS YOUR YEAR? SCOTT

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YAHOO! MAIL

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Date: Fri, 20 May 2005 18:11:23 -0700 (PDT)**From:** "Cliff Groth" <cliffc130@yahoo.com>**Subject:** Toyota recall...from Cliff Groth**To:** "Loads" <Loadmaster@yahoogroups.com>

CC: "Randy Shanks" <loadclear@socket.net>, "Ray Gallegos" <shadowray@btinternet.com>, "squeaky" <cblm130@hotmail.com>, "Steve Lusk" <ardiceaglejo@yahoo.com>, "Toe" <toa3829@aol.com>, "dpelletier4" <eagle141@earthlink.net>, "Eric Truesdale" <etruesdale@hamett.org>, "gwan" <Sleeplesswa@aol.com>, "James Caron" <ptjtd@hotmail.com>, "John Gudmundson" <redwolf28386@yahoo.com>, "Lori" <loriannlawrence@yahoo.com>, "Michael Rice" <riceman67@gd.net>, "Billie" <Keystonelayd@aol.com>, "Chlef Foulels" <kgfoulels@hotmail.com>, "Cowboy" <ronald.iniguez@pope.af.mil>, "Craig Cooley" <c1coolio@hotmail.com>, "Crash" <nathan.horton@littlerock.af.mil>, "Buff Groth" <Grothb@comcast.net>, "bryan white" <bryanwhite1969@bellsouth.net>

The recent Toyota recall I seen on tv reminded me of a problem I had.

That I almost forgot about...way back in December 2002 when I lost steering in my truck.

I tried everything to get the word out about my bad "drag link" in my 1995 truck. I wanted no money, just wanted peace of mind knowing:

MY truck was the ONLY one affected.

Being 10 years old now with almost 168,000 miles I doubt anything would ever be

done. The guys that replaced my drag link said it was definitely mis-manufactured.

Luckily I was going very slow into a parking spot....if this had happened cruising down I-95 at speeds 70+ I wouldn't be here right now.

Sorry to take up your time...the new Toyota recall and Scott's e-mail to me

<below> reminded me of my previous problem.

Sincerely,

Cliff

Hi Scott!

Yea I had a drag link that just snapped!

I was pulling into the shoppette parking lot on Pope and soon as I turned left into a spot....BANG it snapped.

Luckily I was going very slow...because once it snapped I lost steering and was not going where I wanted...headed straight toward a parked car.

The steering wheel was FREE WHEELING!

I e-mailed Toyota and sent pictures...they seemed the least bit concerned. So I went to the Toyota dealership...and they accused me of hitting a pot hole...LOL

After that I gave up....and just tried to notify all my friends who might have a 1995 model. To at least get the drag link checked for cracks.

Red Line Auto shop just down Manchester Rd. off Pope did my repair work. They said a "drag link" should NEVER snap or break...parts attached to it might wear out, but a drag

YAHOO! MAIL

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Date: Mon, 23 May 2005 09:25:00 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Cliff Groth" <cliffc130@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Toyota recall...from Cliff Groth
To: "Ask Toyota" <toyota_cares@toyota.com>

FYI

This is old news....but it's still on my mind daily.
Take Care,
Cliff Groth

Note: forwarded message attached.

Forwarded Message

Date: Sat, 21 May 2005 13:41:02 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Cliff Groth" <cliffc130@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Toyota recall...from Cliff Groth
To: hcrabtree@rivergatetoyota.dealerspace.com

HTML Attachment

Hey Billy,

The e-mail I sent from the site didn't let me attach pix.
I know the current recall is for newer vehicles, but it reminded me of my problem in Dec 02.
Have a good weekend,
Cliff Groth

Note: forwarded message attached.

Forwarded Message

Date: Sat, 21 May 2005 09:59:00 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Cliff Groth" <cliffc130@yahoo.com>
Subject: Fwd: Toyota recall...from Cliff Groth
To: stoeh@lemonauto.com

HTML Attachment

Hi Sean,

I know you can't help me now because this incident happened in Dec 02, and I currently live in TN.
But I lived in NC from 1985-2003 while in the Air Force at Pope.
Just wanted to inform you of a incident I had with my 1995 Toyota truck.
The Toyota recall and a e-mail from a friend kinda reminded me of it. Biggest complaint I had was Toyota wanted to hear NOTHING! about my "drag link". I e-mailed them my problem and sent pictures of it.

They replied with one of them auto-replies do-dad's---Thx for your inquiry. So after that... I took the defective "drag link" to Rick Hendrick Toyota <a dealership in Fayetteville> and they gave some smart remark---Oh you must've hit a pot hole. Anyway all that is old news now...but I often wonder.... could another drag link be waiting to snap? At least same year/model as mine. Sorry to bother you....but with the new Toyota recall....it was on my mind. Have a good weekend,
Cliff Groth

Note: forwarded message attached.

Forwarded Message

Date: Fri, 20 May 2005 18:11:23 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Cliff Groth" <cliffc130@yahoo.com>
Subject: Toyota recall...from Cliff Groth
To: "Leads" <Leadmaster@yahoogroups.com>
CC: "Randy Shanks" <loadclear@socket.net>, "Ray Gallagus" <shadowray@btinternet.com>, "squesky" <cbim130@hotmail.com>, "Steve Lusk" <arcticasaglejo@yahoo.com>, "Toe" <toe3829@aol.com>, "dpelletier4" <eagle141@earthlink.net>, "Eric Truesdale" <etruesdale@hammett.org>, "gwan" <Sleeplesswa@aol.com>, "James Caron" <ptjd@hotmail.com>, "John Gudmundson" <redwolf28386@yahoo.com>, "Lori" <lorianlawrence@yahoo.com>, "Michael Rice" <riceman67@gcl.net>, "Billie" <Keystonelayd@aol.com>, "Chief Foulis" <kgfoulis@hotmail.com>, "Cowboy" <ronald.iniguez@pope.af.mil>, "Craig Cooley" <c1cooley@hotmail.com>, "Crash" <nathan.horton@litterack.af.mil>, "Buff Groth" <Grothb@comcast.net>, "bryan white" <bryanwhite1969@bellsouth.net>

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We'll didn't mean to write a book...nice hearing from you.

I thought of my drag link the second I heard about that Toyota recall too. My Toyota is a 1995.

Have attached some pictures...I think I sent them to you before, but if not here are a few.

Take Care my friend,

Scott wrote:

Didn't you have a problem with the drag link on your Toyota? I was thinking about the recall and wondered if that was your year?

Scott

Attachments

Photo:



[drag link_1.jpg](#)(41k) [View]



[drag link_2.jpg](#)(43k) [View]

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Recalls

1995 Toyota Tacoma Xtracab SR5 4WD

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ADVER

2 Recall Notices

These recall notices may not apply to all vehicles. Please contact your dealer for more details or contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Auto Safety hotline at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

Campaign Number: 96V129000 **Date:** 1996-Jul-10

Component: Suspension: Front

Defect Summary: UNDER CERTAIN DRIVING CONDITIONS, THE FRONT SUSPENSION SUPPORT CAN CRACK LEADING TO FAILURE OF THE SUPPORT.

Consequence Summary: THIS CONDITION CAN RESULT IN LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL.

Corrective Summary: DEALERS WILL REPAIR THE SUSPENSION SUPPORT.

To schedule service online [click here](#)

Campaign Number: 95V195001 **Date:** 1995-Oct-11

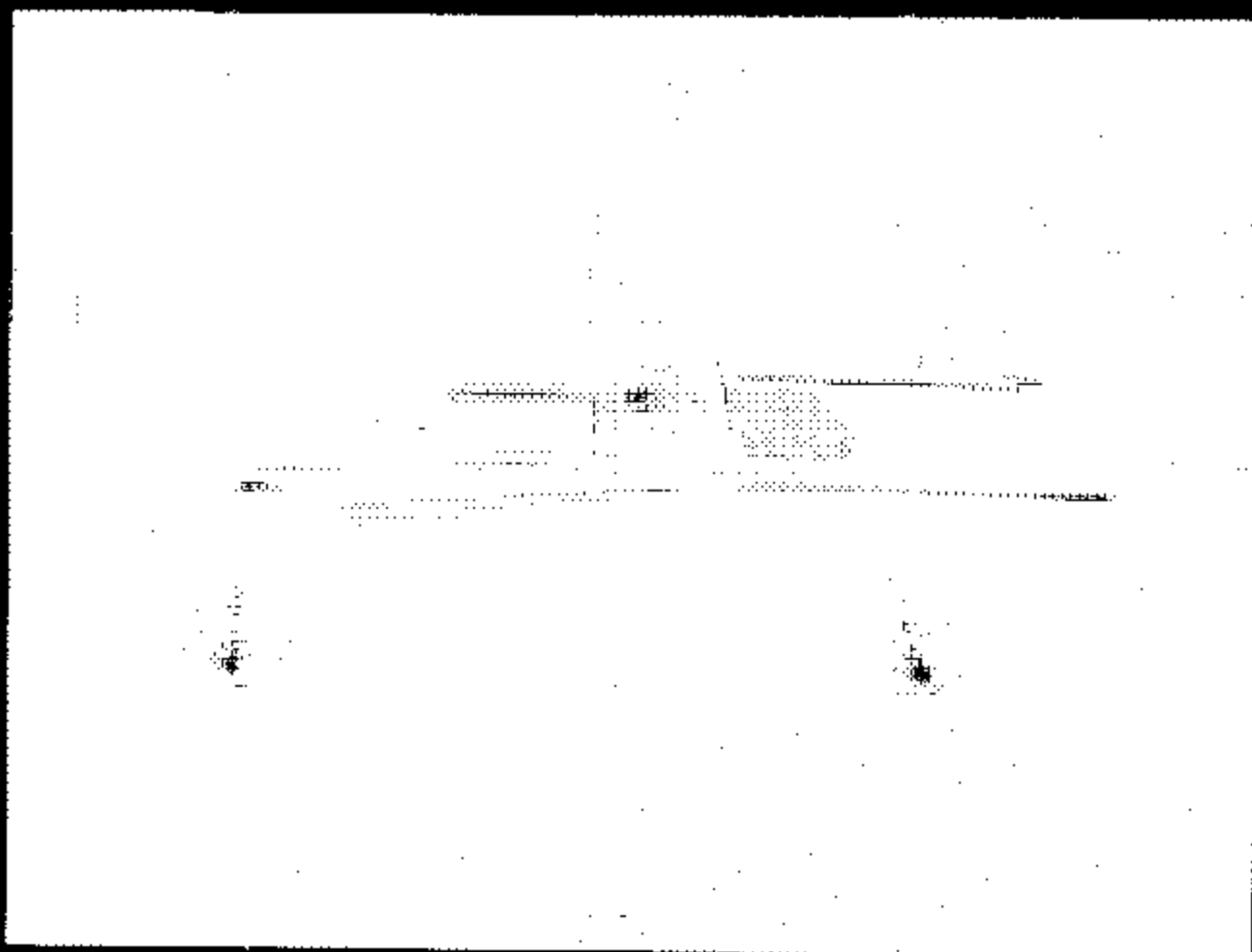
Component: Electrical System: Battery

Defect Summary: THE BATTERY CAN HAVE A DEFECTIVE WELD INSIDE THE POSITIVE AND/OR NEGATIVE TERMINAL ALLOWING THE CONNECTION INSIDE THE TERMINAL TO SEPARATE.

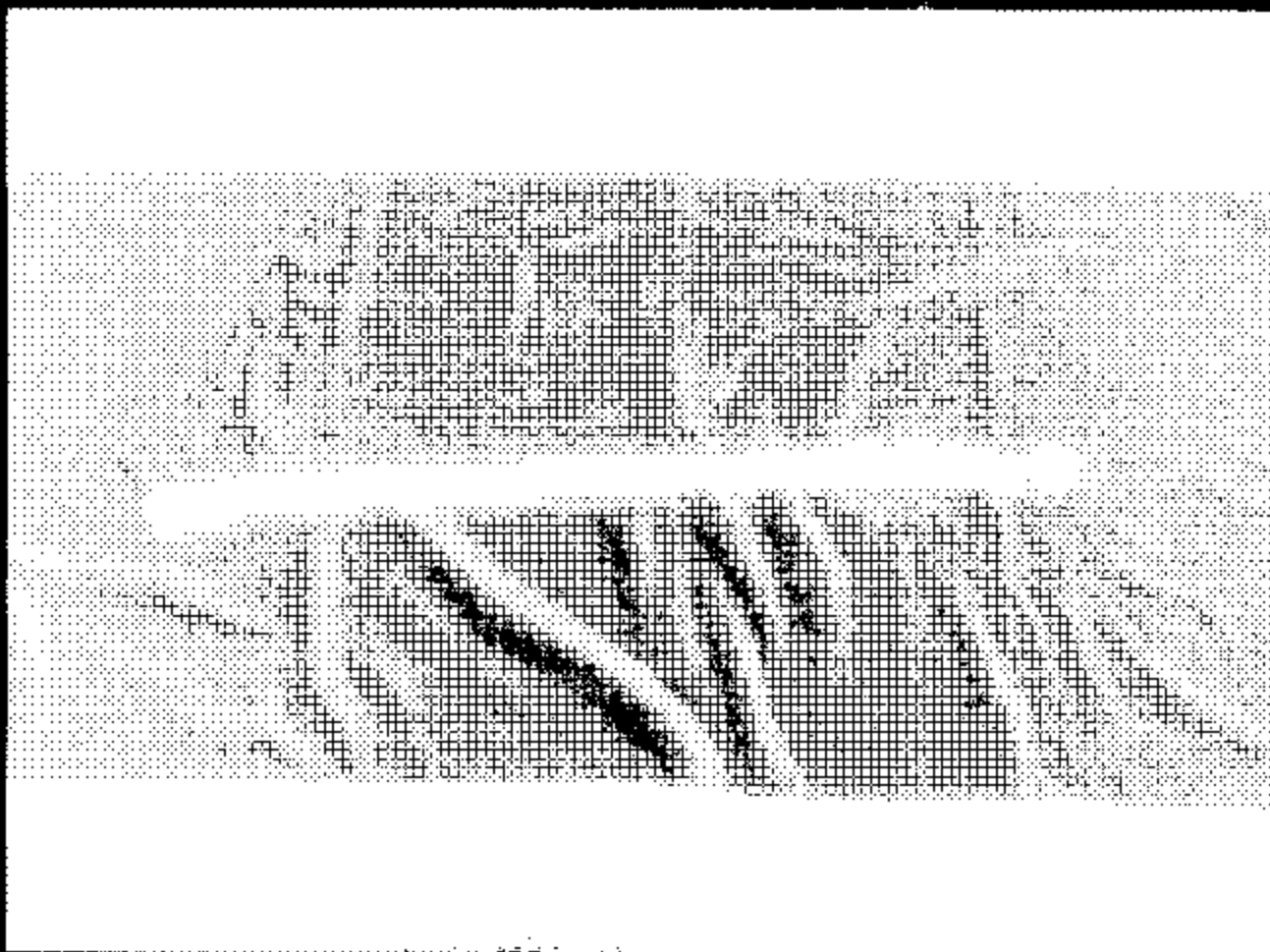
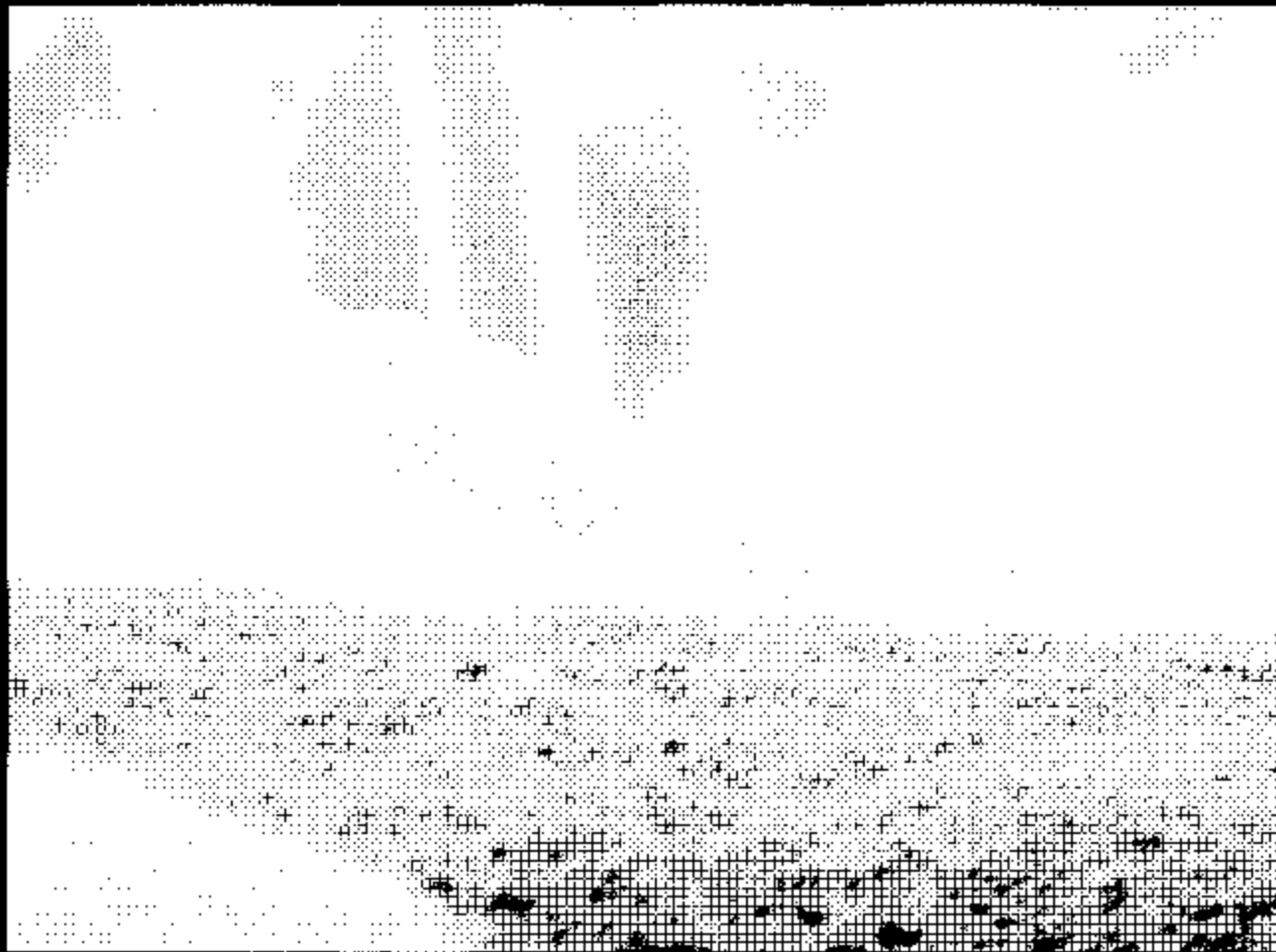
Consequence Summary: THIS CONDITION CAN RESULT IN A NO-START CONDITION, OR A BATTERY EXPLOSION.

Corrective Summary: DEALERS WILL REPLACE DEFECTIVE BATTERIES.

To schedule service online [click here](#)







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PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).