



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 100148

Date Received

01-JUN-2005

Repository

Reference No.  
10123816

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

City KINGSFORD

State MI

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED]

E-mail Address [REDACTED]

Evening Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle?  YES  NO  
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side  
1GDEL19W5S [REDACTED]

Make  
GMC

Model  
SAFARI

Model Year  
1995

Date Purchased  
20-MAY-96

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Engine:  
No: Cylinders 6

Fuel Type:  
Gas

Original Owner

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type  
AUTOMATIC

Antilock Brakes  
 Cruise Control

Powertrain  
ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code  
021220 SUSPENSION:FRONT:SPRINGS:TORSION BAR

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)  
26-MAY-2005

Failure Mileage

Failure Speed

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)

Original Equipment  
 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

Yes  No

Fire

Yes  No

Number of Persons Injured

Number of Deaths

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).

DT: THE CONTACT OWNS A 1995, GMC SAFARI. THE CONTACT SAYS WHILE THE VEHICLE WAS SITTING IN GARAGE THEY HEARD A LOUD BANGING NOISE. WHEN THEY WENT OUT TO THE GARAGE THEY NOTICED THAT THE TORSION BAR SNAPPED. MECHANIC NOTICED SEVERAL OF THE SAME VEHICLES WITH THE SAME PROBLEM. ALSO ON THE NHTSA WEBSITE THERE WERE 26 COMPLAINTS FOR THIS SAME PROBLEM. \*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.

[REDACTED]  
Kingsford, MI [REDACTED]  
Tuesday, June 07, 2005

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

Narrative: Reference Number: 10123816

Attached please find a copy of the repair billing.

On May 20, 2005 my wife heard what sounded like an explosion in our garage. Upon inspection we discovered the right torsion bar broke. The left front side of the van was almost down on the wheel. Needless to say the van was not drivable.

The van is a 1995 GMC Safari in very good condition. It is equipped for a handy cap driver. My wife is a quadriplegic and this van is for her use.

The first two weeks in May of 2005 we drove this van about 3500 miles. Many of the highways were interstate and at speeds of 70 miles per hour. Had this failure happened while at these speeds there might have been a very bad accident because of a loss of control resulting from the torsion bar failure?

Our neighbors had a Chevy Astro Van, which is the same as the GMC Safari. GMC reimbursed our neighbors half the cost of their repairs. I was informed that there have been 26 similar reported failures on the Safari vans and 52 similar failures on the Chevy Astro Vans. These are only the reported failures. My neighbors did not report the failure for they did not have the Safety Hot Line number. I am sure there are many others who did not report their failures.

We did contact GMC and were told that these failures were not common and they were not concerned enough to do anything for us. The new torsion bars are somewhat different from the original equipment. The dealer replaced both the Left (broken torsion bar) and the right torsion bar at a cost of about \$850.00. It tied up the vehicle for one complete week for repairs. I have the broken torsion bar in my position if it is needed for inspection.

We would appreciate your serious consideration of an investigation of these failures before some one is seriously hurt or killed.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

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).