

CL-10130247-1909

NHTSA  
Office of Investigations  
NSA-1001400  
7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC, 20590

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

Attn. Greg Magno Re: ODI #10130247

Dear Mr. Magno,

DEC 17 2015

The included complaints were recently added to my list, after my original complaints list was already mailed to the NHTSA (see NHTSA ARTEMIS document #CL-10130247-6869.pdf). These files were either recently found in the NHTSA complaints files, or are new complaints recently filed with the NHTSA.

If you would be so kind, please add them so as to be part of complaint #10130247.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Newport Beach, CA [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make:	MERCEDES BENZ
Model:	300 SERIES
Type:	ANY
Year:	1993
Complaint Number:	10133655

RECEIVED  
MMS-215  
2005 SEP 30 A 10:04  
OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Summary:

THE WIRING HARNESS IN MY VEHICLE, LIKE MANY OTHERS OF THE SAME MAKE/MODEL/VINTAGE, IS BEGINNING TO CAUSE ENGINE ISSUES. THE CAR STALLS AND MISSES WHEN IDLING AND IT IS A SAFETY CONCERN. IT WOULD BE QUITE DANGEROUS FOR THE VEHICLE TO STALL ON THE HIGHWAY ETC. MERCEDES IS WELL AWARE THAT THIS IS A VERY COMMON PROBLEM, AND IT IS A MATTER OF WHEN THE PART WILL FAIL AND NOT IF. IT IS A DESIGN FLAW THAT CAUSES THE ISSUE. MERCEDES DESIGNED THE HARNESS TO DEGRADE OVER TIME, THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE DEGRADATION IS HAPPENING AT A FASTER RATE THAN EXPECTED, LEAVING THE CONSUMER AT RISK OF INJURY. THIS IS A DAILY DRIVER VEHICLE AND SAFETY IS A HUGE CONCERN. THE PART IS EXOBIDANTLY EXPENSIVE AND NOT READILY AVAILABLE, SO I AM STUCK DRIVING A VEHICLE THAT IS POSSIBLY UNSAFE UNTIL THE PART IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ME.

NAM  
12/15  
SMD

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10128437

#### Summary:

1994 E320 HAD INTERMITTENT RUNNING PROBLEMS. CAR WOULD STALL WITHOUT WARNING, ESPECIALLY DURING A RAIN OR AFTER WASHING THE CAR. REPLACED MANY PARTS(MASS AIR METER, TUNE UP, OVP RELAY, FUEL PUMP RELAY, ETC) TO CHASE THE PROBLEM, NONE OF WHICH SOLVED IT. BEGAN TO LOOK ON MERCEDES FORUMS AND FOUND THIS TO BE A COMMON PROBLEM. BEFORE I REPLACED THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IT BEGAN TO SMOKE HEAVILY FROM UNDER THE HOOD. I HAD AN EXTINGUISHER WITH ME AND STOPPED IT FROM CATCHING FIRE. MERCEDES COVERED PART OF THE COST UNDER THEIR "GOODWILL" PROGRAM HOWEVER I HAD TO INSTALL IT WHICH TOOK ABOUT 8 HOURS. THE FIRST OCCURANCE HAPPEND AROUND 125K MILES HOWEVER IT WAS MANY MONTHS AND MILES LATER THAT THE PROBLEM WAS FIXED.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10025241

#### Summary:

THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS ON MY 1994 MERCEDES-BENZ E320 IS CRACKED BECAUSE OF THE USE OF POOR WIRING INSULATION CAUSING MY CAR TO DIE IN THE MIDDLE OF DRIVING. TO RESTART IT, I HAVE TO COME TO A COMPLETE STOP, PUT THE SHIFTER GATE TO P, TURN THE KEY ALL THE WAY BACK, AND FINALLY RESTART IT. IT IS VERY DANGEROUS BECAUSE I NEVER KNOW WHEN IT WILL OCCUR, I HAVE ALMOST BEEN IN MANY ACCIDENTS BECUASE OF THIS PROBLEM. THE BENZ TECHS TOLD ME THAT THIS IS A VERY COMMON PROBLEM AND THAT MERCEDES-BENZ REFUSES TO MAKE IT A RECALL. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10025560

#### Summary:

ON 5 SEPARATE OCCASIONS OVER THE PAST 4 MONTHS MY CAR HAS SUDDENLY CUT OUT WHILE DRIVING ON THE HIGHWAY AND CITY STREETS, ALL WITHOUT ANY PRIOR WARNING. THESE INCIDENTS RESULTED IN A SUDDEN LOSS OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL POWER, RESULTING IN POOR BRAKING AND STEERING. ON A PREVIOUS DEALER VISIT, THE CAR WAS INSPECTED AND SERVICED WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS. THIS CAR IS NOW AT THE DEALER HAVING THE WIRING HARNESS REPLACED AS A COST OF \$1500 WITHOUT ANY GOOD WILL FROM MERCEDES BENZ. THIS IS CLEARLY A MANUFACTURING DEFECT AFFECTING A LARGE NUMBER OF VEHICLES, HOWEVER THE MANUFACTURER STILL APPEARS TO BE IGNORANT TO THE FACT. THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE ON THE INTERNET SUGGESTING THAT THIS IS AN ONGOING PROBLEM.\*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10136413

#### Summary:

CAR SUDDENLY LOST POWER, DROVE HOME AT VERY REDUCED SPEED. MECHANIC DIAGNOSED IT AS A FAULTY WIRING HARNESS, A COMMON DEFECT ON THIS MODEL CAR 1992 MERCEDES BENZ 500E.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10136387

Summary:

MERCEDES BENZ ENGINE WIRING HARNESS FAILURE. AS MANY ENTHUSIASTS AND OWNERS KNOW, THE MAIN ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IS MOST 1992 TO 1995 MERCEDES BENZ VEHICLES SUFFERS DETERIORATION AND PREMATURE FAILURE. THE RESULT IS POOR RUNNING CONDITION AND THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRE. MY OWN HARNESS SHOWED SIGNS OF DETERIORATION AT THE 7 YEAR MARK AND MERCEDES BENZ WOULD NOT REPLACE IT UNDER GOODWILL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE I WAS HAVING OTHER WORK DONE, THEY REPLACED IT FOR THE PART COST ONLY WAIVING LABOR CHARGES.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10136633

Summary:

1993 MERCEDES BENZ 500E - STALLS, ROUGH IDLE AND HESITATION. THE CAR DUE TO WIRING DEFECT SHUTS DOWN DURING DRIVING ACTIVITIES IE. PULLING INTO TRAFFIC AND ALMOST IN A SERIOUS ACCIDENT. THIS WAS REPORTED TO MERCEDES USA AND REPORTED TO DEALERSHIP, THEY STATED UNAWARE OF PROBLEM BUT WOULD REPLACE FOR \$1200. PER CLUBS AND USER GROUPS [REDACTED] ALL OWNERS HAVE REPLACED OR EXPERIENCED SAME PROBLEMS. \*JB

## NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10137157

### Summary:

THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS AND EA/CC/ISC(PART M16/1,ELECTRONIC ACCELERATOR/CRUISE CONTROL/IDLE SPEED CONTROL) WIRING INSULATION HAS BADLY DETERIORATED ON MY 1995 E320 CABRIOLET DUE TO HEAT FATIGUE FROM POOR MANUFACTURING. THIS CAR HAS 92000 MILES. THE DECAY HAS REACHED THE POINT OF LEAVING BARE EXPOSED WIRE WITHIN THE HARNESS. THESE WIRES MAKE CONTACT CAUSING THE ENGINE TO STALL, SURGE AND SET MISC. ENGINE CODES. IT IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL...WHO KNOWS. THIS IS A KNOWN PROBLEM TO OWNERS OF THESE VEHICLES AS EVIDENCED BY CONVERSATION THREADS ON SEVERAL WELL REGARDED FORUMS. THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MERCEDES WAS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE ECO-FRIENDLY WIRE INSULATION THAT WOULD DEGRADE IN THE LANDFILL. IT WAS A GREAT IDEA, BUT HAS FAILED MISERABLY. IN MY OPINION SOMEONE IS GOING TO BE SERIOUSLY INJURED IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED WITH A RECALL. NOW. THIS IS NOT BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION A PART THAT IS PRONE TO FAILURE. MY FEELING IS THAT BY WAITING IT OUT MERCEDES IS HOPING THESE CARS WILL JUST GO AWAY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE I CAN PROVIDE DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE HARNESS CLEARLY SHOWING THE DECAY. QUITE FRANKLY IT IS OUTRAGEOUS. I ALSO DO HAVE A BAD HARNESS THAT I KEPT. I HESITATE TO SEND IT AS I MAY BE FORCED TO TRY AND RECONDITION IT SOMEHOW. THE COST OF A NEW HARNESS IS RIDICULOUS NOT TO MENTION I WOULD END UP WITH A HARNESS THAT WILL DO THE SAME THING UNLESS THEY HAVE CHANGED THERE WAYS FOR THIS PART! HERE ARE THE FORUMS I MENTIONED ABOVE.

[REDACTED] I  
CAN NOT BELIEVE THAT A COMPANY KNOWN FOR A HIGH QUALITY LONG LASTING  
PRODUCT WOULD DUCK OUT OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS ISSUE.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300E  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 8001345

Summary:

VEHICLE WILL NO LONGER START BECAUSE OF WIRING HARNESS; COATING ON WIRES HAVE MELTED, AND WERE TOUCHING ONE ANOTHER, CAUSING VEHICLE NOT TO START.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 190  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 958826

Summary:

VEHICLE CAUGHT ON FIRE WHILE STOPPED, IT STALLED THEN BURST INTO FLAMES UNDER HOOD. TT

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 511109

Summary:

ELECTRICAL WIRING OVERHEATED, CAUSING FIRE.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 601885

Summary:

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FAILURE

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SERIES  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 10104057

Summary:

WIRING IN ENGINE COMPARTMENT AND ALL RUBBER HOSES ON THE VACUUM SYSTEM HAVE DETERIORATED . THE WIRING CONNECTORS HAVE ALL FELL APART AND THE HOSES HAVE TURNED HARD AND FELL APART. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300SE  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 8009073

Summary:

THE WIRES ARE EXPOSED UNDERNEATH THE VEHICLE. AND THE CONSUMER IS CONCERNED BECAUSE THE WIRES CAN CAUSE A FIRE. THE DEALERSHIP IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM. \*JB CONSUMER ADDS THE WIRING IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT HAD TOTALLY DETERIORATED TO THE POINT THAT BARE WIRES WERE EXPOSED BECAUSE THE INSULATION HAD CRACKED AND FELL OFF THE WIRE HAVING AN POTENTIAL TO CAUSE AN FIRE. \*TT

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300SE  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 10011882

Summary:

CONSUMER NOTICED SMOKE COMING FROM UNDER THE HOOD. THE VEHICLE CAUGHT ON FIRE AND WAS TOTALED. THE FIRE INSPECTOR INDICATED THE FIRE WAS CAUSED BY THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300SE  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 10040933

Summary:

UNDER-HOOD FIRE TOTALED CAR. FIRE DEPT. REQUIRED TO EXTINGUISHED FIRE.  
FIRE STARTED WHILE CAR WAS BEING DRIVEN. CAUSE UNDETERMINED.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 420  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 706220

Summary:

No Summary

Crash: NO

Fire: YES

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10129347

#### Summary:

THE WIRE HARNESS ON THIS CAR IS COMPLETELY STRIPPED OF INSULATION. THE BARE WIRES ARE HANGING IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. THE CAR RUNS POORLY AND SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE IT WILL STALL. THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHTS COME ON IN THE DASH CONSTANTLY WHICH REQUIRES DIAGNOSIS. I HAVE DECIDED IT IS TOO COSTLY TO GET DIAGNOSIS DONE REGULARLY SO I JUST UNPLUG THE BATTERY TO RESET THE COMPUTER. IN ADDITION TO THE FIRE HAZARD, ACCIDENT HAZARD, NOW I AM COVERING UP OTHER POSSIBLE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS BY DISREGARDING CHECK ENGINE LIGHTS ON THE DASH. MERCEDES WILL NOT DO ONE THING TO ASSIST ON THIS PROBLEM. I HAVE READ OF HUNDREDS OF THESE PROBLEMS AND AM SURE MANY PEOPLE ARE NOT AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND MERCEDES WILL NOT NOTIFY ANYONE. SOMEONE SHOULD NOT HAVE TO GET HURT BEFORE SOMETHING IS DONE TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE!

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10058951

#### Summary:

BRITTLE, DEFECTIVE UNDERHOOD WIRING HARNESS CAUSING STALLING/LOSING POWER AT SPEED, HIGH EMISSIONS AND ENGINE FIRES. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 8009965

Summary:

CONSUMER HAD TO REPLACE WIRING HARNESS 3 TIMES. DEALER HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT CAUSE OR FIX THE PROBLEM.\*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 724438

Summary:

THE INSULATION ON THE ENGINE WIRING OF THIS CAR HAS COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED IN NORMAL USE. THE LOCAL DEALER AND INDEPENDENT GARAGE HAVE REPLACED THE WIRING ON MANY OTHER CARS OF THIS MODEL. WITH MUCH OF THE BARE WIRING EXPOSED, IT IS BOTH A SEVERE FIRE RISK, AS WELL AS POSING A SEVERE RISK OF ENGINE FAILURE WITHOUT WARNING. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10124113

Summary:

FAULTY ENGINE WIRE INSULATION

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 552493

Summary:

VEHICLE HAS HAD CONTINUAL MECHANICAL AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS,  
DETAILS NOT PROVIDED. YH

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10038660

#### Summary:

MAIN ENGINE HARNESS CORROSION ON A 1995 C 280 MERCEDES BENZ. THIS TYPE OF DETERIORATION IS NOT FROM ABUSE OF THE CAR. IT IS CAUSED BY POOR QUALITY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP. SHOULDN'S WIRES IN A VEHICLE LAST A LIFETIME? I COULD SEE REPLACING TIRES, BRAKES A TRANSMISSION, BUT AN ENGINE HARNESS. THIS PART IS NOT EVEN READILY AVAILABLE, IT NEEDS TO BE ORDERED IN GERMANY. I AND MY FRIEND BOTH OWN THIS MODEL VEHICLE AND WE ARE BOTH EXPERIENCING THE SAME PROBLEM. MY MECHANIC INFORMED ME THAT HE REPAIRED A FEW OTHER CARS OF THE SAME MODEL WITHIN THE LAST 2 MONTHS OR SO. ANY RESPONSE OR INVESTIGATION INFORMATION THAT YOU TURN UP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10133909

#### Summary:

MERCEDES BENZ WIRING HARNESS FAILURE C280 1995 DEFECTIVE WIRING INSULATION SHORTING OUT OF WIRES ENGINE FAILURE POSSIBLE FIRE NO RESPONSE FROM MERCEDES BENZ THIS IS A COMMON DEFECT KNOWN BY ALL BENZ TECHNICIANS

## THIS ONE COUNTS AS FIVE COMPLAINTS:

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: S CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10136000

#### Summary:

**4 UNITS OF S600 (V12) AND 1 UNIT S500 ALL SUFFERED** DETERIORATION OF THE WIRING HARNESS IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT, I AM NOT THE FIRST VICTIM, AND MERCEDES BENZ AS A COMPANY IS AWARE OF THIS PLEASE STOP PRETENDING YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS ISSUE CAUSE THE TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING DIVISION OF DAIMLER CHRYSLER WAS WELL INFORMED AND IT WAS ALSO DOCUMENTED, AND YET TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY, THEY WILL KEEP ALL THEIR EYES CLOSE. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 420  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10128910

#### Summary:

SHORTLY AFTER PURCHASE OF A 1995 MERCEDEZ-BENZ E420, I WAS TOLD BY AN INDEPENDENT MECHANIC OF THE NEED TO REPLACE WIRING HARNESSES IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT BECAUSE THE WIRING INSULATION BECOMES BRITTLE, CRACKS, AND FALLS OFF. THIS WAS DEMONSTRATED TO BE THE CASE ON MY CAR, WITH THE MECHANIC SHOWING ME THE CONDITION OF THE WIRES IN THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS. THIS REPAIR COST ME OVER \$2000 - OF COURSE I HAVE RECEIPTS. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE A MANUFACTURING DEFECT - IT IS SO PREVALENT, I CAN FIND COUNTLESS MENTIONS OF IT IN MERCEDES DISCUSSION BOARDS ON THE INTERNET, WHOSE CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE MERCEDES-TRAINED MECHANICS. MERCEDES SHOULD TREAT THIS AS A SAFETY-RELATED RECALL - DO YOU WANT YOUR ENGINE QUITTING ON THE FREEWAY? DO YOU WANT A FIRE IN YOUR ENGINE COMPARTMENT? MERCEDES SHOULD REFUND ME THE MONEY I SPENT RETURNING MY CAR TO A SAFE CONDITION.

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 420  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10136415

#### Summary:

TWO MAJOR FAILURES OF WIRING ON MY 1995 S420. (1) MAIN WIRING HARNESS SHORTED, BURNED INSULATION AND FAILURE TO OPERATE. DEALER CLAIMED NORMAL WITH A CAR THIS AGE. (2) THROTTLE ACTUATOR WIRING HARNESS SHORTED, AGAIN BURNED INSULATION AND OPERATE IN LIMPED MODE ONLY. CONTACTED REGIONAL MANAGER AND MB USA, RESULTING IN SENDING IN DAMAGED PART TO MB USA FOR ENGINEERING STUDY. ONE MONTH LATER I CONTACTED THE PRESIDENT OF MB USA. ONE WEEK LATER I WAS CONTACTED BY MB USA CUSTOMER SERVICE, WAS TOLD THEY (MB USA) KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE ENGINEERING STUDY. I CONTACTED MY LOCAL DEALER, WHO CLAIMED THE FAULTY ACTUATOR WAS SHIPPED TO MB USA. THERE IS NOT ONLY A SERIOUS ENGINEERING PROBLEM WITH THESE WIRING HARNESSES BUT UNCONSCIONABLE THAT THEY CHOOSE TO IGNORE IT. FURTHER, I FOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE TO BE PRETTY MUCH NON EXISTENT, PARTICULARLY AT MB USA. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 898986

#### Summary:

WHILE TRAVELING APPROXIMATELY 30 MPH SMOKE STARTED COMING OUT FROM UNDERNEATH HOOD OF VEHICLE. DEALERSHIP EXAMINED VEHICLE, AND DETERMINED THERE WAS A POWER SURGE IN ELECTRICAL SYSTEM THAT CAUSED A FIRE TO START. \*AK \*YH

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 836664

#### Summary:

CONSUMER WAS TURNING A CORNER WHEN THE VEHICLE STALLED, TOTAL VEHICLE FAILURE.SMOKE STARTED COMING FROM THE HOOD BURSTING INTO FLAMES. NO DAMAGE TO THE INTERIOR OF THE VEHICLE, BUT TO THE RIGHT HAND SIDE UNDERNEATH THE HOOD, INCLUDING THE RIGHT FRONT TIRE MELTED. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 190  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 479825

#### Summary:

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM FAILURE. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1996  
Complaint Number: 10049352

#### Summary:

WIRING HARNESS ON A 1996 MERCEDES C220 WITH 74,000 MILES INTERMITTENTLY FAILING, AND CAUSING CAR TO STALL ON FREEWAY AND SURFACE STREETS. THIS IS PUTTING ME AND MY FAMILY IN DANGER, AS WELL AS OTHER DRIVERS. MERCEDES DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THIS AS A PROBLEM, THERE ARE NUMEROUS WEBSITES DEDICATED TO THIS ISSUE, HUNDREDS OF CASES, AND NO RESPONSE. THIS PART WHICH SHOULD OUTLAST THE CAR, IS FAILING ON CARS WITH LESS THAN 100,000. I AM AFRAID TO DRIVE MY CAR! I DON'T KNOW IF IT IS GOING TO COMPLETELY STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FREEWAY... AND GET ME INTO AN ACCIDENT. \*LA

### NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1996  
Complaint Number: 6900615

#### Summary:

UPON TAKING OWNERSHIP OF VEHICLE AIR BAG LIGHT ON THE INSTRUMENT PANEL WAS ILLUMINATED. DEALERSHIP CHANGED AN UNKNOWN COMPONENT, AND SINCE THEN HAS EXAMINED VEHICLE TWO MORE TIMES FOR SAME PROBLEM. CONSUMER HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT WIRING HARNESS HAD TO BE REPLACED IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM, AND WAS BEING CHARGED \$2,500.00 FOR REPAIRS. PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / DOCUMENTATION.\*AK

## NHTSA Complaints Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: SL SERIES  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10136391

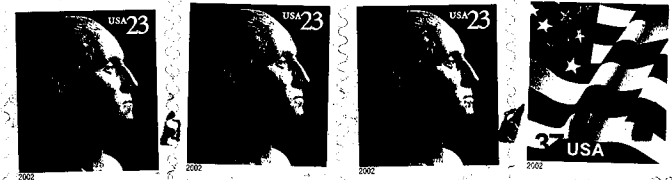
### Summary:

DT: THE CONSUMER STATED THAT ON 1993 MERCEDES 500 SEL ENGINE WIRING HARNESS SHORTED OUT. THE INSULATION ON THE WIRING CRUMBLED OFF. THE DEALER SAID THAT THEY COULD REPAIR THE PROBLEM AT CONSUMER'S COST. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED. \*AK

SANTA ANA CA Beach SEPA

2005

SANTA ANA CA 927 SEP



NHTSA  
Office of Investigations  
NSA - 1001400  
7th Street SW  
Washington DC, 20590

Attn: Mr. Greg Magno



August 15, 2006  
NHTSA  
Office of Investigations  
NSA-1001400  
7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC, 20590

Attn. Greg Magno Re: ODI #10130247

DEC 17 2015

Dear Mr. Magno,

The included thirty-four complaints were recently added to list (see below link), after my original complaints list of sixty NHTSA complaints were mailed to the NHTSA (see NHTSA ARTEMIS document #CL-10130247-6869.pdf) on July 15, 2005, to join a second set of forty-two NHTSA found complaints mailed to your office on September 23, 2005, further joining a third set of forty-four complaints mailed to your office on March 28, 2006, and a fourth set of twenty-nine complaints also mailed to your office on May 23, 2006.

This fifth set of files were either recently found in the NHTSA complaints files, or are new complaints recently filed with the NHTSA.

If you would be so kind, please add them so as to be part of complaint #10130247.

Please note, the new total of Mercedes Benz Engine Wiring Harness Defect related NHTSA complaints I have found, printed, and mailed to your office now totals a remarkable two-hundred nine (209).

Sincerely,

  
Newport Beach, CA   


#### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make:	MERCEDES BENZ
Model:	500E
Year:	1992
Complaint Number:	10156163

Summary:

THE CAR'S UPPER AND LOWER ENGINE WIRING HARNESSSES HAVE DEGRADED TO THE POINT WHERE THE CAR WOULD NOT RUN. IT LOOKS AS IF ALL THE INSULATION HAS 'CRUMBLD' AWAY LEAVING BARE WIRES. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10158452

**Summary:**

UPPER ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IN MY 1992 MERCEDES BENZ 500E (81,000 MILES) HAS COMPLETELY DETERIORATED. THE INSULATION HAS BECOME BRITTLE AND CRACKED AND FLAKED OF THE HARNESS CAUSING ELECTRICAL SHORTS WITHIN THE IGNITION SYSTEM CAUSING FAILURE TO START OR RUN CONDITIONS. THROUGH RESEARCH ON THE WEB I HAVE DISCOVERED THIS IS A COMMON SITUATION WITH THE W124 CHASSIS CARS. SINCE IT IS A KNOWN PROBLEM I FEEL THAT MERCEDES BENZ OF NORTH AMERICA IS OBLIGATED TO INITIATE A RECALL OR VOLUNTARILY REPLACE THIS KNOWN FAULTY ITEM.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10158632

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRING HARNESS DEGRADED AND STARTED BECOMING BRITTLE RESULTING IN WARNING LIGHTS, FAILED WATER TEMPERATURE SENSING AND ULTIMATELY POOR RUNNING OF ENGINE AND WIRING HARNESS CRUMBLING..

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10158228

**Summary:**

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING:FRONT UNDERHOOD: 1994 E320 WIRE HARNESS CRACK PROBLEM. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10158643

Summary:

THE ENGINE / FUEL INJECTION WIRING HARNESS, AND STARTER/ALTERNATOR WIRING HARNESS OF MY 1992 MERCEDES-BENZ 500E (61,000 MILES), HAS CRACKED INSULATION THROUGHOUT AND IS BEGINNING TO SHORT OUT WITH THE RISK OF CAUSING DANGEROUS ENGINE MALFUNCTION AND EVEN FIRE INSIDE MY ENGINE COMPARTMENT. I HAVE READ MANY REPORTS OF OTHER MERCEDES-BENZ CARS OF THE SAME AGE RANGE HAVING THE EXACT SAME DEFECT. THIS IS A KNOWN ISSUE WITH MERCEDES THAT THEY REFUSE TO RECALL.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10158924

Summary:

ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WAS DETERIOATED COMPLETELY CAUSING ENGINE PROBLEMS, STALLING IN TRAFFIC. IT WAS CORRECTED BY BUYING A NEW WIRING HARNESS. THE OLD PART WAS KEPT. IT IS UNDERSTOOD BY ME THAT THE INSULATION USED WAS BIODEGRADABLE.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10159128

Summary:

I HAVE HAD NUMEROUS WEIRD DRIVETRAIN FAILURES WITH MY CAR... ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS HAS FAILED. UPON REPLACEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS AN INHERENT DEFECT WITH THIS HARNESS. ON A 12 YEAR OLD CAR, THE INSULATION ON THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IS BRITTLE, HARD, CRACKED AND SPLIT IN MANY AREAS...EXPOSING BARE WIRES AND SHORTING OUT ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS THAT AFFECT NORMAL ENGINE OPERATION. THIS HAS CAUSED MY CAR TO SURGE AND QUIT RUNNING FOR NO OTHER APPARENT REASON. MERCEDES BENZ HAS DENIED THE EXISTENCE OF A PROBLEM AND HAS FAILED TO ISSUE A RECALL ON THIS ONGOING WIDESPREAD MANUFACTURERS DEFECT. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: S CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10159330

Summary:

ENGINE HARNESS, BODY HARNESS AND MASS AIR SENSOR FAILED DUE TO DETERIOATION OF WIRING HARNESS.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300SE  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 10158480

Summary:

I HAVE PROBLEM WITH DISINTEGRATING WIRING CAUSING MY CAR TO ACCELERATE ON ITS OWN. I TOOK IT TO THE MERCEDES BENZ DEALERSHIP WHERE THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ASR WAS LET ALONE HOW TO FIX THE PROBLEM. THEY HAD MY CAR FOR 1 AND A-HALF WEEKS. PLEASE INFORM ME AS TO WHAT TO DO AS I FEEL I AM DRIVING A DANGEROUS VEHICLE. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10158491

Summary:

MB USA REFUSES TO REPLACE FAULTY WIRING HARNESS, THIS IS A KNOW ISSUE. DISINTEGRATES WITH AGE DO TO USE OF SUB-STANDARD HARNESS COVERS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 600 SEL  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10159751

Summary:

INTENSE ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY DETERIORATING WIRING HARNESS IN MY 1992 600 SEL MERCEDES. THE WIRES ARE CRACKED IN NUMEROUS PLACES RESULTING IN INTERMITTENT MALFUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS COMPONENTS.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 220  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10159763

Summary:

I BOUGHT MY MERCEDES C220 1995 FROM ANOTHER OWNER 3 YEARS AGO. ON MARCH OF THIS YEAR, I WAS TOLD BY MY MECHANIC THAT THE WIRING HARNESS IS DETERIORATING AND NEEDS TO BE REPLACED OTHERWISE ISSUES ARE GOING TO START POPING UP. ALREADY, THE FIRST DID - FUELING SYSTEM ISSUES. I WAS TOLD THAT I COULD HAVE THE HARNESS REPLACED FOR \$1300 ( US \$ ).

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: S CLASS  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10159899

Summary:

PARTS OF THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM BEGAN FAILING. DRIVERS WINDOW WOULD NOT OPERATE AND AFTER MUCH TROUBLESHOOTING BY THE REPAIR SHOP, THE SWITCH WAS REPLACED. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER GAUGES ON THE DASH FAILED AND THE PASSENGER WINDOW AND HORN FAILED TO OPERATE. AFTER DISASSEMBLING THE INTERIOR (SEATS, CONSOLE, DASH, ETC.) THE REPAIR SHOP CAME UPON THE PROBLEM - WIRES SHORTING ALL ALONG THE WIRING HARNESS AND CAUSE SPARKS AND SHORTS THROUGHOUT. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10160120

**Summary:**

CAR WILL QUIT ALL OF A SUDDEN AND LEAVE ME WITH NO BRAKES AND NO STEERING. THIS IS DUE TO A BRAKE DOWN IN THE ENGINE ELECTRICAL HARNESS. THIS IS GOING TO CAUSE AN ACCIDENT AND OR A FIRE. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10160457

**Summary:**

1995 MERCEDES BENZ E320; MY CAR HAS BEEN HESITATING AT IDLE, WORST WHEN A/C IS ON, WHEN ACCELERATING, MAKING TURNS, BACKFIRES CONSTANTLY WHICH FRIGHTENS ME THAT MY CAR COULD CATCH FIRE AND INJURE THE KIDS IN THE CAR AND CAUSE AN ACCIDENT ON THE ROAD. MY MECHANIC SAYS THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS SHOULD BE REPLACED FIRST BEFORE HE COULD TROUBLESHOOT ANY PROBLEMS AND THIS WOULD COST ME \$1000-1600 FOR THE PART PLUS LABOR. I FEEL THAT THIS IS TOO MUCH TO PAY FOR A BUNCH OF WIRES AND I FEEL THAT THIS IS NOT RIGHT MERCEDES BENZ CARS AREN'T SUPPOSE TO DETERIORATE LIKE THIS, IT SHOULD LAST FOREVER. WHEN HAVING TO PAY MORE THAN 50K DOLLARS FOR A CAR, THESE THINGS AREN'T SUPPOSE TO HAPPEN. PLS. APPROVE THIS IMPORTANT RECALL.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10160661

**Summary:**

HELLO, I RECENTLY STARTED HAVING PROBLEMS WITH MY ASR SYSTEM ON MY 1993 MB 400E, AND THE SERVICE WRITER TOLD ME MY WIRING HARNESS WAS FAULTY, CRACKED AND WAS TURNING TO DUST ! HE SAID IF I DIDN'T FIX IT WOULD CAUSE ME SERIOUS PROBLEMS - EVEN POSSIBLY AN ENGINE FIRE ! HE TOLD ME COST TO REPLACE THE WIRE HARNESS + LABOR WOULD BE ABOUT \$ 1080.00. COME TO FIND OUT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE THIS PROBLEM. WHY DON'T YOU FOLKS GET MERCEDES TO ISSUE A SAFETY RECALL !! HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TO DIE OR GET BURNED ALIVE BEFORE YOU HELP THE PUBLIC THAT YOUR SUPPOSED TO PROTECT !! PLEASE HELP US--THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10160647

**Summary:**

I OWN A 1994 E320 AND AM TOLD BY MY SERVICE FACILITY THAT IT HAS A BAD ENGINE WIRING HARNESS. I AM HAVING ERRATIC IDLE PROBLEM AND TECHS WONT DO ANY MAJOR REPAIRS WITHOUT MY FIRST HAVING THE WIRING HARNESS REPLACED. THEY SAY THAT IF THEY DO ANY MAJOR REPAIRS THAT REQUIRE VALVE COVER REMOVAL BECAUSE THEY WONT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HARNESS REPLACEMENT.

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 560  
Year: 1991  
Complaint Number: 10160080

### Summary:

1991 560 SEC HAS INTERMITTENT ROUGH IDLE DURING ALL OPERATING TEMPERATURES. AFTER BEING DRIVEN WITH A/C ON FOR ABOUT 8 MILES IN TRAFFIC AND PARKED FOR UNDER TWO HOURS IN HOT WEATHER, CAR FIRST REFUSES TO START - A/C SWITCHED OFF. THE CAR STARTS AFTER A FEW ATTEMPTS AND HAS EXTREMELY ROUGH IDLE. START TO DRIVE AND CAR SOON STALLS REFUSING TO START. A FEW MORE ATTEMPTS, CAR STARTS AND GOES TO EXTREMELY ROUGH IDLE CONDITION. CAR DRIVES A SHORT DISTANCE AND DIES. AFTER MANY MORE RESTART ATTEMPTS, CAR STARTS GOES TO EXTREMELY ROUGH IDLE. REVVING THE ENGINE TO ABOUT 3000 RPM FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS SEEMS TO BRING BACK THE NORMAL ROUGH IDLE WITH BETWEEN 2-4 FOUR REVVING ATTEMPTS AND RESULTING REDUCED COOLANT TEMPERATURE. CAR DRIVES ROUGHLY AND THEN SUDDENLY SMOOTHES OUT. INTERNET INVESTIGATION POINTS TO BIODEGRADABLE WIRING HARNESS. SEEMS TO BE A MAJOR SAFETY PROBLEM. LUCKILY THE 18 WHEELER THAT WAS ABOUT TO CRUSH ME DURING THE LAST STALL EPISODE WAS ABLE TO CHANGE LANES JUST IN TIME. THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN IN WINTER TIME. FOR A CAR THIS EXPENSIVE, THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS. I NEVER HAD SUCH A SAFETY AND ENGINE FIRE POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH MY 1982 380SEC. THE WIRING HARNESS IS AN UNCONSCIONABLE EXPENSIVE ITEM THAT SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME SERVICE LIFE AS A \$30 SERPENTINE BELT, BUT COSTS OVER \$1000. THIS IS ALSO A MAJOR EMISSIONS PROBLEM THAT COULD DESTROY THE EQUALLY EXPENSIVE CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CATALYTIC CONVERTER. DOES SOMEBODY DIE FOR YOU PEOPLE TO DEMAND A RECALL. OR DOES THE CAR HAVE TO BECOME A SUPER POLLUTER? I COULD HAVE DIED FROM THIS PROBLEM AND MY CAR IS A SUPER POLLUTER WHEN THIS INTERMITTENT HOT PROBLEM OCCURS. I'M GOING TO WRITE MY STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS. DO THE RIGHT THING AND GET THIS PROBLEM FIXED WITH A RECALL. BIODEGRADABLE WIRING! HOW STUPID IS THAT? \*JB

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 280  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10162071

### Summary:

MY HUSBAND WAS CHANGING THE IGNITION WIRES AN WHEN DOING SO NOTICED THAT ALL THE WIRES UNDER THE HOOD ARE CRACKING DETERIORATING. WE ARE WORRIED THAT THIS WILL CAUSE A FIRE SOON. THE IGNITION WIRES ARE SEALED IN THICK RUBBER HE CUT IT APART AND FOUND THAT ALL THE WIRES INSIDE WERE ROTTED CRACKED BARE WIRE RUNNING TOGETHER. WHICH IS WHY THE CAR WOULDN'T START. WHATS NEXT?

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10163010

Summary:

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT COMING ON INTERMITTENTLY FOR NO APPARANT REASON, SRS LIGHT COMING ON AND FINALLY ELECTRIC FAN STOPPED WORKING CAUSING ENGINE TO OVERHEAT AND NEARLY CATCH FIRE. UPON EXAMINING THE CABLE HARNESS INSULATION WAS FOUND TO BE CRUMBLING AND IN SOME PLACES COMPLETELY MISSING. AFTER INVESTIGATING I FOUND THAT BETWEEN 94-96 BENZ CHOSE A BIODEGRADABLE INSULATION FOR THEIR HARNESS AND IT IS A WELL KNOW FACT AMONGST THE OWNERS THAT IT CRUMBLES AWAY. BENZ IS NOT ACCEPTIN REPONSIBILITY AND IS CHARGING \$1500 FOR CABLE REPLACEMENT.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SERIES  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10163361

Summary:

1992 MERCEDES 300E, ENGINE WIRING HARNESS FAILING CAUSING CAR TO SHORT OUT, STALL, NOT DRIVABLE. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1996  
Complaint Number: 10162824

#### Summary:

I HAVE A 1996 E320 AND THE FIRST THING TO GO WAS THE CONDENSER FAN, WHEN YOU TURN THE AC ON ITS THE FANS THAT HELP KEEP YOUR CAR COOL, BUT THEN THAT WENT OUT AND MY CAR WOULD RUN HOT IF I CONSTANTLY RAN AC. THEN MY AC BLOWER JUST WENT OUT ONE DAY. THEN I TOOK IT TO A MERCEDES SPECIALIST AND HE NOTICED THAT THE WIRING HARNESS WAS FRAIL AND WORN. HE CALLED MY CAR A TIME BOMB AND SAID IT WOULD BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT DIED ON ME. BUT I THOUGHT THAT MERCEDES LAST A LONG TIME. AND THEN, ABOUT A MONTH LATER, MY CHECK ENGINE LIGHT CAME ON AND MY CAR BEGAN SHAKING FROM TIME TO TIME AND I LOST A LOT OF POWER TO IT. SOMETIMES I WOULD HAVE TO PULL OVER AND TURN THE CAR OFF AND THEN TURN IT BACK ON TO STOP THE SHAKING. HE ALSO SAID THAT IT WOULD COST ABOUT \$1000 TO REPLACE AND THAT IT WAS A BAD DESIGN BY MERCEDES. AND LAST SATURDAY NIGHT ON MY WAY HOME, I GOT INTO MY CAR AND TRIED TO START IT, BUT NOTHING HAPPENED, I COULDN'T EVEN HEAR A CLICK AT ALL WHEN I TURNED THE KEY. I TRIED JUMP STARTING IT, AND STILL NOTHING, SO I ENDED UP HAVING TO TOW IT HOME. I CALLED THE MERCEDES SPECIALIST AGAIN AND TOLD HIM WHAT WAS WRONG AND ALL THE STEPS I TOOK, AND HE SAID MORE THAN LIKELY ITS THE WIRING HARNESS. SO NOW I HAVE A NICE LOOKING CAR JUST SITTING IN MY DRIVE WAY DOING NOTHING. POOLER, GA. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 190E  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10164050

#### Summary:

WIRING HARNESS IS NO GOOD CRACKED IN SEVERAL PLACES LOOKS BURNED. \*NM

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10163905

### Summary:

I AM WRITING ABOUT A FAULTY ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IN MY 1993 400E (E420 BADGE). THIS PAST MAY, MY CAR HAD A CHECK ENGINE LAMP PROBLEM SYMPTOM. AFTER BEING WITHOUT MY CAR FOR THE MORE THAN 2 WEEKS THAT IT TOOK MY MECHANIC (DIETSCH WERKS IN SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA) TO INVESTIGATE MULTIPLE ERRONEOUS DIAGNOSTIC FAULT CODES, I FINALLY GOT MY CAR BACK AFTER SPENDING ABOUT \$500 PARTIALLY FOR ELUSIVE DIAGNOSTIC TIME. ON THE EVENING OF 30 JUNE, THE CAR DIED WHILE DRIVING ON THE BUSY US 101 FREEWAY IN SAN JOSE, SO I HAD IT TOWED TO MY MECHANIC. THE FUSE FOR THE FUEL PUMP (AND OTHER THINGS) WAS BLOWING. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DIAGNOSTICS, IT WAS FINALLY DETERMINED THAT THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WAS FAULTY. IN ADDITION TO BEING WITHOUT MY CAR FOR MORE THAN 2 WEEKS AGAIN, I PAID A REPAIR BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,209.67. I DID A LITTLE RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET AND FOUND THAT SOME EARLY/MID 1990S MODEL MERCEDES-BENZ CARS HAD AN ENGINE WIRING HARNESS DESIGN DEFECT, IN THAT A BIODEGRADABLE WIRING INSULATION WAS USED THAT DETERIORATES FROM HEAT IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. IT APPEARS THE PROBLEM IS FAIRLY WELL KNOWN BY MERCEDES-BENZ MECHANICS. PAYING SUCH A HIGH PRICE (\$743.70) FOR SUCH A LOW COST PART GIVEN THE CAUSE OF THE FAILURE IS MOST INAPPROPRIATE. IT'S LIKELY THAT THE COST TO MERCEDES-BENZ FOR THE HARNESS DELIVERED TO THE LOCAL DEALER WAS LESS THAN \$74.37. I HAVE THE FAULTY HARNESS AND THE MERCEDES-BENZ BOX THE REPLACEMENT HARNESS CAME IT. I AM WILLING TO SHIP IT FOR ANALYSIS. REPORTEDLY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF OWNERS OR 1991 - 1996 MERCEDES-BENZ VEHICLES ARE EXPERIENCING THEIR CARS BECOMING INOPERATIVE WITHOUT WARNING AS A RESULT OF THIS DESIGN DEFECT. I SUSPECT THAT SOME OR MANY OF THE VEHICLES SUDDENLY BECOME INOPERATIVE IN VERY UNSAFE SITUATIONS. THE EXTREME PRICE GOUGING FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE DEFECTIVE HARNESS IS EVIDENCE OF OF CONTEMPT FOR CUSTOMERS AND NHTSA. \*JB

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10163906

### Summary:

MISC INTERMITTENT ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS. PROBLEMS TRACED TO DISINTEGRATING WIRING HARNESS. WIRE INSULATION IS LITERALLY CRUMBLING AWAY LEAVING BARE WIRES. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 280  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10164197

Summary:

1995 MERCEDES C280 DISINTEGRATING ENGINE WIRING HARNESS DEFECT. MANY PROBLEMS FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH TRYING TO REPAIR BUT TO NO AVAIL.. FOUND OUT NOW AFTER OPENING THE WIRING COVER THAT ALL OF IT WAS DUE TO DISINTEGRATING WIRING THAT EXPLAINS WHY SOMETIMES STALLING AND ROUGH RUNNING OR FAULT CODES NEED RESET! \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10164085

Summary:

CAR ENGINE STALLED DURING DRIVING. CAR WAS BROUGHT TO THE MERCEDES BENZ DEALER (MILLENNIUM IN NJ ( WHO TOLD ME THAT THE WIRING HARNESS NEEDED REPLACEMENT. I HAD MORE THAN 100K MILES ON THE CAR SO I PAID \$2,700 TO HAVE THE PROBLEM FIXED. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10164222

Summary:

DT: THE CONTACT STATED TWICE THE CRUISE CONTROL ENGAGED SUDDENLY WITHOUT WARNING. THE CRUISE CONTROL DISENGAGED AFTER APPLYING THE BRAKE. THE FIRST TIME THIS OCCURRED IMMEDIATELY AFTER TURNING ON THE AIR CONDITIONER. THE SECOND TIME THE VEHICLE WAS ON A SLIGHT INCLINE WHEN THE CONTACT FELT THE ACCELERATOR PEDAL PULL AWAY FROM THE FLOORBOARD. UPON INSPECTING THE VEHICLE, THE CONTACT NOTICED THE INSULATION ON THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IS DETERIORATING. THE DEALERSHIP HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10164376

**Summary:**

1992 MERCEDES 400E WITH ABOUT 140,000 MI. HAS A DEFECTIVE WIRING HARNESS WHICH HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL HUNDRED COMPLAINTS ALREADY POSTED AND MANY ENGINE FIRES. THE WIRES IN THE HARNESS HAVE NO PROTECTION AGAINST HEAT AND LAY RIGHT ABOVE THE ENGINE. THE HARNESS CONTAINS SEVERAL WIRES, ALL OF WHICH SHOW DIRECT METAL TO METAL CONTACT THAT COULD EASILY CAUSE A FIRE. AFTER CALLING ED AT THE MERCEDES DIRECT HELP LINE, HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OR RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS OBVIOUS ENGINEERING DEFECT. ALL OWNERS OF VEHICLES WITH THIS WIRING HARNESS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED OF THIS DANGEROUS DEFECT. AN ADEQUATELY INSULATED REPLACEMENT PART IS NEEDED. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10165191

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRE HARNESS INSULATION IS CRACKED AND BADLY DETERIORATED, CAUSING MALFUNCTION AND FAULTY CODES. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: SL500  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10164920

**Summary:**

HFM & OTHER WIRING HARNESSES ARE DETERIORATED. VEHICLE HAS BEEN MAINTAINED TO MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS SINCE NEW. DETERIORATED WIRING HARNESS CAUSES CHECK ENGINE LIGHTS, IGNITION MALFUNCTIONS, ELECTRICAL SHORTS OCCUR IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. WIRE INSULATION / COATINGS ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT UP TO THE TASK. THIS IS DANGEROUS SITUATION. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10164673

Summary:

COMPLETE FAILURE OF ENGINE WIRING HARNESS DUE TO PREMATURE DETERIORATION OF WIRE INSULATION. GARAGED CAR WOULD START AND RUN NORMALLY FOR SHORT (TEN MINUTE) TRIPS BUT WOULD NOT START UP TO RETURN HOME. STRANDED NUMEROUS TIMES. CHECK ENGINE LIGHT TRIPS PERIODICALLY. STALLING AND SURGING COMMON. INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST MECHANIC DISCOVERED CRUMBLING AND CRACKED WIRE INSULATION ON WIRING HARNESS. CAR WILL NO LONGER START AT ALL. I HAVE SPENT MUCH TIME AND MONEY TRYING TO FIX WHAT APPEARS NOW TO BE A KNOWN DEFECT. I AM THE ORIGINAL OWNER OF THIS CAR AND I AM VERY UPSET THAT SUCH A SERIOUS DEFECT HAS NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY ADDRESSED BY THE MANUFACTURER. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10165159

Summary:

DT\*: THE CONTACT STATED THE VEHICLE HAD A WIRING HARNESS PROBLEM. THE PLASTIC HARNESS CAUSED PROBLEMS WITH THE SPEED CONTROL AS WELL. THE VEHICLE HAD PROBLEMS ACCELERATING AT 65 MPH AND THE DEALER DETERMINED THE WIRING HARNESS NEEDED TO BE REPLACED. THE CONTACT STATED THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE FOR TWO YEARS. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Year: 1996  
Complaint Number: 10165086

Summary:

SEVERE DEGRADATION OF THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WHICH SHORTED OUT THE AIR MASS METER AND THROTTLE ACTUATOR. THE VEHICLE STALLED IN HEAVY RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC. THIS WIRING DETERIORATION COULD HAVE EASILY RESULTED IN A VEHICLE FIRE, AS HAS OCCURRED IN OTHER MERCEDES-BENZ VEHICLES WITH THIS DEFECT. MERCEDES HAS DENIED ANY RESPONSIBILITY. \*JB



NEWPORT BEACH, CA

15 2006

SANTA ANA CA 927 AUG 15 2006 PM

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ATTN: GREG MAGNO, RE: OBI# 10130247

