

May 23, 2006  
NHTSA  
Office of Investigations  
NSA-1001400  
7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC, 20590

RECEIVED  
NYS-215

*Qdts*  
*10130247*

2006 JUN -1 A 10:08

Attn. [REDACTED] Re: ODI #10130247

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear [REDACTED]

The included twenty-nine (29) complaints were recently added to my list, after my original complaints list of sixty (60) NHTSA complaints mailed to the NHTSA (see NHTSA ARTEMIS document #CL-10130247-6869.pdf) on July 15, 2005, to join a second set of forty-two (42) NHTSA found complaints mailed to your office on September 23, 2005, further joining a third set of forty-four (44) complaints mailed to your office on March 28, 2006.

This fourth 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 and mailed to your office now totals one-hundred seventy-five (175).

10130247 11 06 52

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Newport Beach, CA [REDACTED]

[http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints\\_nhtsa\\_mercedes\\_wiring\\_harness\\_failures\\_1991\\_1996.html](http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints_nhtsa_mercedes_wiring_harness_failures_1991_1996.html)

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 129  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10150787

#### Summary:

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON DASHBOARD, IDLE ROUGH, STALLING OF CAR. I CHECKED THE ENGINE HARNESS CONNECTOR TO THE AIR MASS METER AND GENTLY MOVED THE WIRES. THE OUTSIDE INSULATION BEGAN TO SMOKE, THEN MELTED FROM THE HEAT. I QUICKLY TURNED OFF THE CAR'S ENGINE AND CHECKED THE DAMAGE. THE INSULATION COVERING THE 4 WIRES INSIDE OF THE HARNESS HAD TOTALLY DISINTEGRATED, THUS CAUSING SHORT CIRCUITS IN THE HARNESS. THE HEAT GENERATED ACTUALLY MELTED THE OUTSIDE COVERING OF THE WIRES BOTH AT THE AIR MASS METER CONNECTOR AND UNDERNEATH THE MAIN ENGINE COMPUTER (ECU). I HAD THE CAR TOWED TO THE LOCAL MB DEALER AND THEY SAID THAT THE WHOLE BODY WIRING HARNESS WAS DESTROYED AND HAD TO BE REPLACED AT A COST OF \$1250 PLUS \$600 FOR THE HARNESS. MB SAID IT WAS NORMAL WEAR AND TEAR AND OFFERED NO ASSISTANCE. I FEEL THAT THE HARNESSES ON MY 1995 SL320 WERE MADE FROM SUBSTANDARD MATERIALS AND THUS DISINTEGRATED PREMATURELY PUTTING MYSELF AT RISK FROM A POSSIBLE

*Maria*  
*8/28/06*

CAR FIRE. I STILL HAVE THE HARNESS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INSPECT IT. ANOTHER HARNESS, THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WAS ALSO FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE, CAUSING SHORT CIRCUITS, AND WAS REPLACED BY MB UNDER WARRANTY IN 1998. SO FAR I HAVE REPLACED 4 DIFFERENT WIRING HARNESS ON MY CAR, ALL SHOWING THE SAME DECOMPOSITION OF THE WIRING INSULATION. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10154004

#### **Summary:**

MY 1995 E320 WITH APPROXIMATELY 130,000 MILES BEGAN TO EXHIBIT UNUSUAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS, ROUGH IDLE, OCCASIONAL STALLING AT LIGHTS. WHEN I TOOK IT TO MY LOCAL MECHANIC, THEY INFORMED ME THAT AS THEY BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE WHAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE, THE INDIVIDUAL WIRES IN THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WERE CRUMBLING UNDER THE SLIGHTEST PRESSURE, MAKING ANY REPAIRS EXTREMELY RISKY WITHOUT HAVING THE ENTIRE HARNESS REPLACED AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$1800. THE FACT THAT THIS HAS BEEN WELL-DOCUMENTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS IS TROUBLING, ESPECIALLY GIVEN MERCEDES' REPUTATION FOR CARS THAT WILL RUN FOR YEARS WITH PROPER REGULAR MAINTENANCE. OBVIOUSLY MBUSA IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM, SINCE DEALERS STOCK THE HARNESS. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 280  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10154342

#### **Summary:**

WIRING HARNESS INSULATION DISINTEGRATION PROBLEM WITH A 1994 MERCEDES BENZ C280(VIN #WDBHA28E5RF074261). WIRING HARNESS INSULATION FAILURE CAUSING FREQUENT HESITATION OF THE VEHICLE . THIS PROBLEM HAS CAUSED SOME SAFETY CONCERNS WHEN PULLING INTO TRAFFIC. TO SUM IT UP MERCEDES IS ALL TOO AWARE OF THE PROBLEM BUT YET HAS OFFERED LIMITED ASSISTANCE TO THE CONSUMER. I AM CURRENTLY PURSUING ASSISTANCE FROM DAIMLER BENZ TO FIX THE PROBLEM WITH THE CAR. I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH THE RESULTS OF HOW MERCEDES HANDLES THIS PROBLEM. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10153751

**Summary:**

MY C280 STARTED SURGING FROM IDLE AND IT IS REALLY HARD TO CONTROL ESPECIALLY IN TRAFFIC OR JUST MANEUVERING IN A PARKING AREAS. I HAVE NO TOTAL CONTROL OF THE CAR AND IT IS VERY UNSAFE TO DRIVE. I FOUND OUT THAT THE WIRING INSIDE THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT IS DETERIORATING AND COOPER WIRES ARE EXPOSED CAUSING WRONG ENGINE SIGNAL FROM THE COMPUTER SENSORS. I AM BUT THE WIRING HARNESS IS SO EXPENSIVE, THIS MUST BE RULED AS A SAFETY RECALL, PLEASE HELP!\*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10154252

**Summary:**

1993 MB 300E - WIRING HARNESS HAS BEGUN TO DETERIORATE CAUSING THE ENGINE TO STALL AND OR NOT START. STALLING CAN OCCUR WHILE DRIVING, THUS LOSING ALL POWER TO PROPERLY CONTROL THE VEHICLE. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10154262

**Summary:**

1993 MERCEDES BENZ 300E THE WIRING ON THE FUEL INJECTOR SYSTEM (AS WELL AS OTHER AREAS OF THE HARNESS) WAS REPLACED 5 YEARS AGO AS DEFECTIVE NOW IT IS DEFECTIVE AGAIN. MERCEDES BENZ REFUSES TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ISSUE. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE CAR IS A POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARD AS THE RISK OF FIRE IS GOOD. MERCEDES APPEARS TO HAVE USED AN INSULATION THAT IS KNOWN FOR DEGRADATION AND REFUSES TO RECALL OR CARE FOR THE ISSUE. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10154300

**Summary:**

WHEN HAVING THE CAR SERVICED, THE REPAIR FACILITY IDENTIFIED MAJOR DETERIORATION OF THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS. THEY INDICATED THAT THIS COULD BE A SAFETY HAZARD, POSSIBLY CAUSING A FIRE OR LOSING ALL POWER TO THE VEHICLE WHILE DRIVING, MAKING IT VERY DIFFICULT TO CONTROL THE VEHICLE. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 600  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10153736

Summary:

RECENTLY I FOUND OUT THAT THE WIRING HARNESS ON MY 1991 600 SE IS DETERIORATING, ON SOME PLACES YOU CAN ALREADY SEE THE BARE WIRES. THIS CAR IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF OTHER REPAIRS, AND BEFORE WE CAN DO ANYTHING ELSE WE MUST REPLACE EVERY SINGLE HARNESS IN THE ENGINE BAY. WE ARE NOT A VERY RICH FAMILY AND CAN NOT AFFORD THAT. I HAVE TO DRIVE THE CAR ALMOST EVERY DAY AND AM VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF IT. WHY DOESN'T MERCEDES DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS? THAT IS BEYOND ME. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 280  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10154946

Summary:

SHORTLY AFTER PURCHASING MY MERCEDES BENZ C-280 FROM A PRIVATE PARTY, THE CHECK ENGINE LIGHT CAME ON. THE LOCAL MERCEDES BENZ DEALERSHIP STATED IT WAS THE WIRING HARNESS AND IT NEEDED TO BE REPLACED. THEY DID NOT STATE THIS WAS A KNOWN PROBLEM WITH THIS MODEL OR YEAR. THE ESTIMATE TO REPLACE THE WIRING HARNESS WAS \$1600. GIVEN THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM FROM THE NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS HERE, MERCEDES BENZ SHOULD ISSUE A RECALL ON ALL AFFECTED VEHICLES BECAUSE THIS PROBLEM IS A SAFETY HAZARD NOT ONLY TO THE DRIVER OF AN AFFECTED VEHICLE, BUT TO ALL CARS ON THE SAME ROAD AS SAID VEHICLE THAT COULD STALL, OR WORSE, CATCH ON FIRE WHILE BEING OPERATED! \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10155439

Summary:

WIRING HARNESS IN 1995 MERCEDES BENZ E320 DETERIORATED CAUSING THE VEHICLE TO STOP ABRUPTLY AND HAD TO BE TOWED - THIS IS A KNOWN PROBLEM WITH THESE CARS AND MERCEDES HAS NO RESPONSE TO CORRECT OR DISCOUNT THE REPAIR PARTS - PAID 3200.00 TO REPLACE ENGINE HARNESS, FUEL ACTUATOR, TRANSMISSION WIRING HARNESS - \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10155541

Summary:

DT\*: THE CONTACT STATED THE SMOG PUMP WAS INOPERABLE. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO AN INDEPENDENT REPAIR SHOP WHERE THE SMOG PUMP WAS REPLACED. THE TECHNICIAN DETERMINED THE WIRING HARNESS BETWEEN THE FUEL INJECTOR AND IGNITION WAS DETERIORATING AND COULD OVERHEAT. THERE IS A NHTSA RECALL, # 95V031000, REGARDING THE WIRING. THE VEHICLE HAS THE SAME PROBLEMS AS INDICATED IN THE RECALL; HOWEVER, IT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE RECALL DUE TO THE VIN.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10155731

Summary:

I OWN A 95 E320 MERCEDES BENZ WHICH HAS 98,000 MILES. SINCE I'VE PURCHASED THIS VEHICLE I HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THE CAR PROPERLY; I CHANGE OIL EVERY 4,000 MILES, I CHANGED THE TRANSMISSION JUST LAST YEAR, ETC. RECENTLY THE SMOG PUMP WORE OUT SO I ASKED A CERTIFIED MERCEDES BENZ TECHNICIAN TO REPLACE IT. AFTER THE REPLACEMENT, HE INFORMED ME THAT HE FOUND ALL OF THE FUEL INJECTION WIRE HARNESSSES TOTALLY STRIPPED OF THEIR INSULATION INSIDE THE OUTER FABRIC COVER. HE SAID THE WIRES WERE TOUCHING EACH OTHER AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIX. HE ALSO SAID THAT SEVERAL MERCEDES BENZ DEALERS KNEW OF THIS PROBLEM AND IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO THEM. AFTER CONTACTING THEM, MERCEDES BENZ SEEMS TO THINK THIS PROBLEM IS NOT OF THEIR CONCERN BECAUSE THE EXPIRATION OF ITS WARRANTY, SO THEY REFUSED TO REPLACE IT. THIS IS A DEFECT THAT COULD INJURE BY ACCIDENT OR START A FIRE AND NOT A WARRANTY PROBLEM. MERCEDES-BENZ NEEDS TO RECALL THESE CARS AND REPLACE THE WIRE HARNESS BEFORE SOMEONE IS KILLED OR BECOMES INJURED. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10155776

Summary:

I OWN A 1993 MERCEDES BENZ 300E. I NOTICED A SECTION OF THE WIRING HARNESS UNDERNEATH MY HOOD BACK AGAINST THE FIREWALL HAS BEGUN TO DETERIORATE. THE PROTECTIVE PLASTIC ON THE WIRING HARNESS IS CRACKING, EXPOSING WIRE. LOOKS LIKE A FIRE HAZARD. MY CAR HAS STALLED SEVERAL TIMES FOR NO APPARENT REASON, POSSIBLY RELATED TO THE WIRE PROBLEM. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SERIES  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10155432

Summary:

1993 MB 300E - WIRING HARNESS HAS BEGUN TO DETERIORATE CAUSING THE ENGINE TO STALL AND OR NOT START. STALLING CAN OCCUR WHILE DRIVING, THUS LOSING ALL POWER TO PROPERLY CONTROL THE VEHICLE. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Year: 1996  
Complaint Number: 10151604

Summary:

I OWN A C 280 (96) (VIN # WDBHA28E5TF315789) CAR STARTED CONSUMING MORE GAS THAN NORMAL, WAS HARDER TO START, STARTED MISSING AND DROVE SLUGGISH. I REPLACED THE SPARK PLUGS AND CABLES. BUT IT GOT WORSE, AND THAN QUIT, AS IF IT WAS OUT OF TIME. I SEND IT TO AN IMPORTED CAR SERVICE SHOP IN DALTON, GA. THEY TOLD ME THAT IT IS A COMMON PROBLEM ON THIS MERCEDES BENZ BENZ. THE WIRING HARNESS UNDERHOOD (INSULATION ON THE WRING) CRUMBLED TO PIECES, LIKE DUST AND SHORTED RELAYS AND ALL THE CAR. I PAID OVER \$2600.00 TO HAVE IT REPAIRED. I STILL HAVE THE OLD HARNESS AS EVIDENCE THAT IT SHOULD BE A RECALL BECAUSE Y COULD LEAD TO A WORSE PROBLEM, LIKE FIRE. THE MECHANIC TOLD ME THAT HE HAS REPAIRED SEVERAL C-280 WITH THE SAME PROBLEM AND THAT MERCEDES BENZ HAS BEEN NOTIFIED AND THEY WILL NOT DO ANYTHING. AN EXPENSIVE CAR AS IT IS SHOULD BE BUILT BETTER THAN THIS. (THE WIRING HARNESS ITSELF IS WORTH \$1600.00 OR MORE. \*NM  
\*

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10155874

**Summary:**

I NEED A NEW HEAD GASGET TO REPAIR AN OIL LEAK. MY MECHANIC TOLD ME THAT IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING TO THE OIL LEAK HE HAD TO TAKE OFF THE WIRING HARNESS UPON WHICH THE HARNESS DISINTEGRATED IN HIS HAND. I AM VERY CONCERNED THE MB WOULD YOU BIODEGRADABLE MATERIAL TO MANUFACTURE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE VEHICLE. THE REPLACEMENT PART IS \$1,000 AND NEEDS TO BE DONE NOW SINCE THE REPAIRING THE EXISTING HARNESS COULD CAUSE A FIRE.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10156015

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRING HARNESS CRACKED, REPLACED AT COST OF \$728 @ MILEAGE OF 86,226 ON 10/21/03. VEHICLE HAD BEEN PURCHASED AS MB STARMARK VEHICLE AT ~45,000 MILES.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10155987

**Summary:**

BOTH ENGINE / FUEL INJECTION WIRING HARNESSES OF MY 1993 MERCEDES-BENZ 500E (115,000 MILES), HAVE CRACKED INSULATION THROUGHOUT. THEY ARE SHORTING OUT, CAUSING STALLING AND THE IMPOSITION OF (INVOLUNTARY/UNACCEPTABLE) RISKS OF DANGEROUS ENGINE MALFUNCTIONS AND/OR FIRES INSIDE THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. NUMEROUS REPORTS OF OTHER MERCEDES-BENZ VEHICLES OF THE SAME AGE DOCUMENT SAID (IDENTICAL) DEFECTS. ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUE IS KNOWN TO MERCEDES-BENZ, A RECALL HAS BEEN REFUSED, OUTRIGHT/HAS YET TO TRANSPIRE. PLEASE ADVISE, ASAP; THANK YOU.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10156025

**Summary:**

MY MECHANIC NOTICED THAT THE UPPER WIRING HARNESS WAS DETERIORATING BADLY AND THE INSULATION HAD DISINTEGRATED COMPLETELY , EXPOSING BARE WIRE AT NUMEROUS SPOTS. I HAD THIS WIRING HARNESS REPLACED BECAUSE IT COULD HAVE LED TO EXPENSIVE DAMAGE TO ELECTRONIC PARTS AND / OR A DANGEROUS SITUATION ON THE FREEWAY.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10155897

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRE HARNESS INSULATION IS CRACKING AND FALLING APART IN AREAS. CAUSED INTERMITTENT POWER LOSS. \*NM

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10156340

**Summary:**

WIRING HARNESS IS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS. CAUSES ENDLESS CHECK ENGINE LIGHTS AND OTHER PROBLEMS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A GARAGED CAR CAN HAVE THIS PROBLEM. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10156597

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRING LOOM HAS DISINTEGRATED CAUSING ELECTRICAL SHORT CIRCUITS IN THE FUEL SYSTEM AND ENGINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THIS SEEMS TO BE A COMMON CONCERN ON THE MERCEDES BENZ 300 FROM 1993 THROUGH 1995. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10156868

Summary:

UPPER AND LOWER ENGINE WIRING HARNESSSES DEGRADED TO POINT WHERE CAR WOULD NOT RUN. INSULATION ALL DRIED UP AND CRUMBLLED AWAY...I UNDERSTAND MANY 500E OWNERS HAVE HAD THIS PROBLEM...MERCEDES ACKNOWLEDGES USING INFERIOR 'BIO-DEGRADABLE' MATERIALS.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10157129

Summary:

VEHICLE STALLED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. AFTER NUMEROUS HOURS OF INVESTIGATIONS AND REPLACING POTENTIALLY FAULTY PARTS, IT WAS REALIZED THAT THIS WAS A WIRE HARNESS FAILURE. A COMMON PROBLEM FOUND ON THIS MODEL, I.E. DEGRADATION OF WIRING HARNESS, LEAVING BARE WIRES WHICH SHORT-CIRCUIT. THIS COULD POTENTIALLY CAUSE CATASTROPHIC FAILURE RESULTING IN DEATH IF NOT ADDRESSED SINCE THE HARNESS ESSENTIALLY CONTROLS ELECTRICAL AND SAFETY SENSOR. \*JB

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10157440

### Summary:

I AM THE OWNER OF A 1993 MERCEDES 400E THE LOWER WIRING HARNESS ALMOST CAUSED A FIRE ON THE VEHICLE DUE TO THE USE OF BIODEGRADEABLE MATERIALS USED BY MERCEDES BENZ BECAUSE THE COMPANY WAS THE LOW BIDDER AND NOW THE UPPER WIRING HARNESS IS CAUSING ALL KINDS OF ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS THRU OUT THE CAR MERCEDES BENZ HAS NOT CLAIMED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROBLEM WHICH IS HIGHLY DANGEROUS AND IS A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH ALMOST ALL OF THEIR CARS FROM 1992 TO 1995 BESIDES BEING SO DANGEROUS IT IS VERY COSTLY TO THE VEHICLE OWNERS MERCEDES BENZ SHOULD HAVE TO RECALL THESE VEHICLES AND BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MISTAKES

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10157480

### Summary:

THE ENGINE / FUEL INJECTION WIRING HARNESS OF MY 1992 MERCEDES-BENZ 500 SEL WAS REPLACED ONCE AND NOW HAS CRACKED INSULATION THROUGHOUT, I MIGHT ADD, THIS NEW HARNESS IS "SUPPOSED" TO BE THE NEW AND IMPROVED UPGRADED VERSION. IT DOES HAVE A DIFFERENT PART NUMBER THAN THE ORIGINAL. THE WIRES ARE ALL EXPOSED BECAUSE OF THE CRACKED INSULATION. PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT A RARE WIRE, ALL OF THEM ARE CRACKED AND DAMAGED AND EXPOSED!!! BECAUSE OF THE OUTSIDE RUBBER CASING WHICH HOLDS ALL OF THE WIRES, I WOULD HAVE NEVER KNOWN OF THIS PROBLEM UNTIL IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE. LUCKILY, MY MECHANIC, ED AT EDS MBZ IN GLENDALE CALIFORNIA, (818) 247-2369 WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE ENOUGH TO IMMEDIATELY CUT THE OUTSIDE CASING TO LOOK INSIDE. I AM STILL AMAZED A CAR COMPANY MAKING AN 80,000 TO 100,000 DOLLAR CAR WOULD HAVE THE AUDACITY TO MAKE ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL ELECTRICAL PARTS THE WIRING HARNESS SO BAD. WIRE HARNESSES ARE SUPPOSED TO LAST THE LIFETIME OF THE CAR- ITS A SAFETY ISSUE!!! IT IS BEGINNING TO SHORT OUT WITH THE RISK OF CAUSING DANGEROUS ENGINE MALFUNCTION AND EVEN FIRE INSIDE MY ENGINE COMPARTMENT. IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE MAJOR CAUSES FOR COMPUTER DAMAGE. ED SHOWED ME 12 HARNESSES HE "RECENTLY" REPLACED. ALL OF THEM THE SAME. I SPOKE WITH MBZ USA- FORGET IT- I THOUGHT I WAS SPEAKING WITH FORD REGARDING EXPLODING GAS TANKS ON OPINTO'S. THIS PROBLEM IS WELL KNOWN WITH ANY GOOD RELIABLE MBZ MECHANIC. SINCE I WAS BLOWN OFF BY MBZ AMERICA, I CALLED AROUND- 5 MBZ DEALERS SERVICE MANAGERS WERE VERY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND ALL 10 INDEPENDENT MECHANICS WERE VERY AWARE AND EXPLAINED ALL THE DANGERS AND EXPENSE. IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. 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 OR CORRECT!!! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!. \*NM

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 220  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10157503

### Summary:

WIRING HARNESS FAILURE ON 1995 MERCEDES C220 CAUSING ERRATIC OPERATION AND STALLING OF THE VEHICLE. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 420  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10157901

**Summary:**

5/18/2006. CHECK ENGINE LIGHT APPEARED. TOOK VEHICLE TO MBZ REPAIR SHOP AND FOUND THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS'S WIRE INSULATION BREAKING APART AND EXPOSING THE BARE WIRING. COST OF REPAIR +\$900.00. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10157894

**Summary:**

1995 MERCEDES E320 ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FELL APART - DISAPPEARED LEAVING EXPOSED WIRES IN ENGINE BAY THAT COULD CAUSE FIRE. \*JB

March 28, 2006  
NHTSA  
Office of Investigations  
NSA-1001400  
7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC, 20590

Attn. Greg Magno Re: ODI #10130247

Dear Mr. Magno,

The included forty-four (44) complaints were recently added to my list, after my original complaints list of sixty (60) NHTSA complaints mailed to the NHTSA (see NHTSA ARTEMIS document #CL-10130247-6869.pdf) on July 15, 2005, to join a second set of forty-two (42) NHTSA found complaints mailed to your office on September 23, 2005.

This third 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 and mailed to your office now totals one-hundred forty-eight (148).

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Newport Beach, CA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints\\_nhtsa\\_mercedes\\_wiring\\_harness\\_failures\\_1992\\_1995.html](http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints_nhtsa_mercedes_wiring_harness_failures_1992_1995.html)

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make:	MERCEDES BENZ
Model:	500
Type:	ANY
Year:	1992
Complaint Number:	10138286

Summary:

UPPER ENGINE WIRE HARNESS FAILURE - ERRATIC IDLE, POWER LOSS, RF NOISE EXCESSIVE, INCONSISTENT ECU FAULT CODES. REPLACED HARNESS AND ALL DEFECTS NO LONGER OCCURRED.

RECEIVED  
MVS-215

2006 APR -4 A 9:00

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 8004706

Summary:

WIRING HARNESS IS EXPOSED OUTSIDE OF HOOD AREA. DEALERSHIP IS AWARE OF PROBLEM. \*AK CONSUMER STATED THAT INSULATION IS CRACKING AND FALLING OFF ALL WIRING AROUND THE ENGINE. \*YD

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SERIES  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10134359

Summary:

I HAVE A 1992 300CE MERCEDES BENZ. THE WIRING HARNESS IS BAD AND I'M TOLD THAT THE PLASTIC WAS MADE OF WHAT HAS BEEN OUTLAWED. THIS MATERIAL MAY CAUSE A FIRE. WHAT IF ANYTHING CAN I DO TO REMEDY THIS WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY AN ARM AN LEG, AS FAR AS THE MERCEDES COMPANY IS CONCERNED? HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PLEASE NOTE THERE HAS BEEN NO ACCIDENT BUT IN ORDER TO PROCEED I HAD TO PUT IN A DATE. THANK YOU. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 478416

#### Summary:

THIS HAS BEEN AN ONGOING PROBLEM WITH OUR CAR IN THAT IT STALLS ON OCCASION WHILE DRIVING. THIS HAPPENS WHILE THE CAR HAS BEEN WARMED UP AND WITH A FULL TANK OF GAS WITH ON FOREWARNING. THE CAR HAS BEEN TESTED AT (ILLEGIBLE) MASSACHUSETTS WHERE IT IS USUALLY SERVICED, AS WELL AS A FACTORY REP WHO CAME TO SEE THE CAR AND AT L.P. EVENS IN (ILLEGIBLE) FLORIDA. NO ONE CAN DISCOVER THE PROBLEM, BUT WE ARE AFRAID TO DRIVE THE CAR AS AT ANY TIME THE MOTOR WILL CUT OUT, AND WE FEAR A HORRIBLE ACCIDENT. PLEASE HELP US SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BEFORE A DISASTER OCCURS.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 514982

#### Summary:

ENGINE COMPARTMENT FIRE. I HAD DRIVEN TO WORK FROM HOME (75 MILES), STOPPED AT THE GATE TO OPEN. AS I RETURNED TOWARD THE CAR FLAMES BEGAN UNDER ENGINE COMPARTMENT. CALLED FIRE DEPT. 911

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E KCLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10136061

#### Summary:

MAIN ENGINE WIRING HARNESS IS CURRENTLY DETERIORATING CAUSING THE WIRES TO BE EXPOSED TO AN INTENSE AMOUNT OF HEAT. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10128593

Summary:

DISINTEGRATION OF INSULATION ON ENGINE WIRING HARNESS.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10134777

Summary:

MY 1995 MERCEDES WAGON E320 HAS ONLY 42K MILES ON IT BUT ALL THE WIRES AKA THE ENGINE HARNESS ARE CRUMBLING TO THE TOUCH. ALL THE WIRE INSULATION HAS DETERIORATED BECAUSE OF THE USE OF BIO-GRADABLE PLASTIC. THE DEALER WANTS ME TO PAY \$1500 FOR THE ENGINE HARNESS. HOW CAN SUCH A MAJOR PART BE SO POORLY MADE AND UNRELIABLE. THIS IS A MAJOR SAFETY ISSUE FOR MY FAMILY. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10139795

Summary:

WIRING HARNESS IN ENGINE COMPARTMENT HAS CRACKED, DRY ROTTEN, AND MISSING INSULATION. THIS IS CAUSED BY POOR MATERIALS USED IN PRODUCTION. IT COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY HAZARD AND CAUSE A FIRE. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10021251

Summary:

BAD ENGINE WIRING WHICH POSSIBLY CAUSED ENGINE TO STALL IN TRAFFIC. \*TT

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10009343

Summary:

MY MECHANIC REPORTED THAT THE INSULATION IS CRACKING AND PEELING AT THE HARNESS, AND THAT IT IS DANGER OF CAUSING SERIOUS ELECTRICAL DAMAGE THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM, ENTAILING MALFUNCTION OF COMPUTERS, CRUISE CONTROL, BRAKE AND OTHER SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS SEVERE ENGINE DAMAGE, INCLUDING ENDANGERING PASSENGERS IN THE EVENT FAILURE OCCURS WHILE DRIVING. I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE PROBLEM IS OF POOR QUALITY INSULATION IS ENDEMIC AMONG 1993-96 MBZ MODELS. I OBSERVED THE HARNESS MYSELF, AND THE INSULATION ON ALL WIRES ENTERING THE HARNESS IS CRACKED AND WIRES ARE EITHER ACTUALLY EXPOSED OR ON THE VERGE OF EXPOSURE. THE CONDITION IS DANGEROUS, AND I AM ADVISED THAT THE LOCAL MBZ DEALER(RAB) DID OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM MBZ IN ONE CASE TO REPLACE A SIMILARLY AFFECTED HARNESS WITH MBZ PROVIDING THE PARTS,BUT NOT THE LABOR. IT IS APPEARS THAT THE DEFECT IS DANGEROUS AND WIDESPREAD, AND PERHAPS IS SYMPTOMATIC, AS I NOTE THAT THERE IS ANOTHER COMPLAINT IN YOUR RECORDS ABOUT THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IN SAME YEARS MODEL. \*TS \*JB \*\*\*DIMSII IVOQ ENTRY POSTED AFTER 12-12-02 CUT OVER TO ARTEMIS\*\*\*762213

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10131814

### Summary:

THE VEHICLE HAS HAD INTERMITTENT ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS FOR AWHILE, BUT NONE OF THEM VERY SERIOUS. FOLLOWING RECENT SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE, THE ENGINE DEVELOPED A FAILED SPARK PROBLEM. AFTER REPLACING PLUG WIRES AND CONNECTORS AND A COIL ASSEMBLY ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM, IT WAS OBSERVED THAT THE WIRING FEEDING THE FRONT COIL ASSEMBLY HAD LOST THE INSULATION AND WAS SHORTED OUT. UPON FURTHER INSPECTION, THE WIRING TO THE OTHER COIL ASSEMBLIES ALSO EXHIBITED THE SAME PROBLEM. THE WIRING WAS TRACED BACK TO WHERE IT JOINED UP WITH THE REST OF THE HARNESS, AND IT WAS FOUND TO HAVE BRITTLE, CRACKED OR MISSING INSULATION EVERYWHERE IT WAS CHECKED. UPON DOING RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET, I FOUND THIS IS A VERY COMMON PROBLEM AND FOUND OTHER VERY SIMILAR COMPLAINTS ON THE NHTSA WEBSITE AS WELL. IN CHECKING THE COST OF THE PART FROM THE LOCAL DEALER, I FOUND THAT THEY HAD ONE IN STOCK (A SIGN THAT THEY MUST REPLACE QUITE A FEW OF THESE) AND THE PRICE FOR THE NEEDED PART WAS \$1033, THIS DIDN'T INCLUDE LABOR WHICH WAS ESTIMATED AT 5 HOURS. I AM PURSUING THE LEAST EXPENSIVE OPTION FOR SUITABLE REPAIR, BUT I AM EXPECTING NEARLY A \$1500 REPAIR COST. I HAVE OWNED MANY VEHICLES IN EXCESS OF 10 YEARS OF AGE, AND THIS IS THE MOST CATASTROPHIC WIRING FAILURE I HAVE SEEN. I SHOULD CONSIDER MYSELF LUCKY THAT THIS PROBLEM DIDN'T MANIFEST ITSELF WITH A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM SUCH AS A FAILURE AT HIGHWAY SPEEDS OR AN ENGINE FIRE, WHICH UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES SEEMED QUITE LIKELY. I WILL SAVE THE WIRING HARNESS FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT SHOULD IT BE NEEDED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. \*JB

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: SL  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10137365 & 10138922

### Summary:

INSULATION ON ELECTRICAL WIRING CRUMBLES TO DUST, RESULTING IN SHORTS, DAMAGED ELECTRONICS, ENGINE STALLING, ABS FAILURE, ETC. IT APPEARS MBZ USED DEFECTIVE INSULATION ON THE ELECTRICAL WIRES IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT WIRING HARNESSSES. IN ALL LOCATIONS THAT ARE EXPOSED TO HIGHER THAN AMBIENT TEMPERATURE THE INSULATION CRUMBLES TO DUST. . DEALER SAYS 'ITS A VERY COMMON PROBLEM WITH 92-95 MODEL YEARS'. REPLACEMENT HARNESSSES COST OVER \$3000 (2 RQD) AND REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS WITH INTEGRAL DEFECTIVE WIRING COST OVER \$8000 (NOT INCLUDING ANY COMPUTER BOXES THAT GET DAMAGED BY SHORTS. \*NM

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10140668

### Summary:

I HAVE A 1994 MERCEDES BENZ C280 VIN#WDBHA28E1RF067288 WITH ABOUT 84000 MILES ON IT AND IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. I HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE ENGINE MISFIRING, WARNING LIGHTS COMING ON RANDOMLY AND OTHER ELECTRICAL GREMLINS. I WAS CHECKING UNDER THE HOOD GETTING READY TO CHANGE THE SPARK PLUGS TO TRY TO MAKE IT RUN BETTER, WHEN I NOTICED SOME BARE WIRES COMING OUT OF THE ENGINE WIRE HARNESS TO A CONNECTOR NEAR THE FRONT OF THE ENGINE. I REACHED DOWN TO REMOVE THE CONNECTOR AND WHEN I DID THERE WAS A POP, AND A PUFF OF SMOKE FROM THAT AREA. THE HARNESS GOT VERY HOT, SO I IMMEDIATELY DISCONNECTED THE BATTERY. UPON CAREFUL INSPECTION I FOUND THAT ALL OF THE INSULATION ON THIS AND MOST ALL OF THE WIRES IN THE HARNESS HAD DISINTEGRATED, THE INSULATION ALMOST COMPLETELY AND THE COPPER WAS ALSO GREEN AND IN POOR CONDITION. UPON CHECKING THE INTERNET I FOUND THAT 1994 AND 1995 C280 MODELS HAVE THIS AS A CHRONIC COMPLAINT. I HAVE WRITTEN MERCEDES BENZ AND RECEIVED NO REPLY. I SPOKE WITH A BENZ MECHANIC I KNOW IN ANOTHER STATE AND HE SAID HE HAD REPLACED DOZENS OF THESE WIRE HARNESSES ON THIS MODEL. HE STATED THAT MERCEDES BENZ HAD EXPERIMENTED WITH A BIODEGRADABLE WIRE INSULATION AT THIS TIME AND THAT THEY FINALLY STOPPED IN LATE 1995 ON THIS MODEL. FURTHER THAT MERCEDES IS AWARE, BUT LEAVES IT UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL DEALERSHIP TO DECIDE IF THEY WILL REPAIR IT AS A GOODWILL REPAIR. HE SAID THEY CHARGE ABOUT \$1500 FOR THIS REPAIR. THE CAR SITS IN MY DRIVEWAY INOPERABLE BECAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM. MERCEDES LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE NOT EVEN GOING TO REPLY. I NOTICED A COMPLAINT 10129347 WHICH SOUNDS ABOUT IDENTICAL. MERCEDES SHOULD OWN THIS DEFECT BEFORE SOME ONE BURNS UP ON THE HIGHWAY DUE TO AN ELECTRICAL FIRE. THE HARNESS IS STILL IN PLACE IF SOMEONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT. I WILL TAKE A FEW PICTURES TO DOCUMENT IT. THIS NEED TO BE CORRECTED BEFORE SOMEONE GETS SERIOUSLY INJURED IF THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY. \*NM

## NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SD  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10141195

### Summary:

ENGINE WIRING HARNESS FAILURE. APPARENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 100 OF THESE REPORTED BUT NO ACTION. WHY? \*JB \*TT

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10032138

**Summary:**

THE DESIGN AND LOCATION OF THE SPARK PLUGS CAUSES A VERY SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD. IN ORDER TO REPLACE OR INSPECT THE PLUGS WIRE HARNESS NEEDED TO BE UNBOLTED AND PUSHED BACKWARDS, WIRE HARNESS SHOULDN'T BE MOVED. WIRE HARNESS SHORTED OUT, CAUSING A SHORT OUT OF ALL COMPONENTS IN THAT CIRCUIT. \*AK

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10136148

**Summary:**

ENGINE WIRING HARNESS WIRE INSULATION HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED. VERY POOR GAS MILEAGE AND ROUGH RUNNING ARE THE RESULT ON A LOW MILE CAR (90K TOTAL MILES). REQUEST REPLACEMENT OF DEFECTIVE WIRING HARNESS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10140856

Summary:

WHILE DRIVING, MY CAR STALLED OUT SEVERAL TIMES, BUT WAS ABLE TO RESTART A FEW TIMES. IT EVENTUALLY WOULD NOT START AND I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, WITH NO PHONE SERVICE, AND HAD A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE FINDING HELP AFTER HAVING TO PUSH MY CAR OFF THE ROAD. TURNS OUT THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS FAILED, BIG SURPRISE!!! THIS WHOLE ORDEAL COST ME 1800 DOLLARS ON SOMETHING THAT MB USED TO REPLACE FOR FREE. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 561347

Summary:

THE AIR CONDITIONER HAS NOT WORKED CONSISTENTLY FOR TWO SUMMERS, THE A/C COMPRESSOR WAS NOT COMING ON BECAUSE THE HARNESS WAS CRACKED AND COMING APART AND THE EVAPORATOR LEAKS, ALL OF THESE FAULTY COMPONENTS CAUSED THE SYSTEM TO BLOW WARM AIR. NLM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10143426

#### Summary:

INITIAL PROBLEM STARTED IN LATE OCTOBER 2005. INTERMITTENT MISFIRING OF CYLINDERS, HESITANT. SEVERAL TRIPS INTO SHOP RESULTED IN "COULD NOT REPLICATE TROUBLE". FINALLY SENT IN WITH SEVERE MISFIRING. REPLACED COIL, SOME IGNITION WIRES, SPARK PLUGS. A FEW DAYS LATER, SAME SYMPTOMS HAPPENED. AFTER MORE DIAGNOSIS, DETERMINED ENGINE WIRING HARNESS HAD FAILED. INSULATION HAD COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED ALLOWING WIRES TO TOUCH. POTENTIAL FOR MORE SEVERE DAMAGE TO VEHICLE COMPUTERS, ACCIDENT OR WORST, FIRE. LOCAL MB SHOP INDICATED IT WAS "NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM", "SHOULD EXPECT IT WITH 10 YEAR OLD CAR". ITEM WAS IN STOCK FOR \$975.00 (SO I ASSUME IT DOES HAPPEN FREQUENTLY), WITH LABOR OF 8 HOURS @\$119.00. I DID NOT FEEL THIS SHOULD HAPPEN ON A 10 YEAR OLD CAR, NOT TO MENTION A FORMER "CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED" VEHICLE. AFTER RESEARCHING INTERNET, FOUND OVER 36 PAGES WORTH OF NHTSA MANUFACTURERS COMPLAINTS, REGARDING SIMILAR TROUBLE WITH THE WIRING HARNESS. TOTAL SPENT TO REPAIR = \$2313.43. WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF MERCEDES BENZ

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 500SL  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10143261

#### Summary:

UPON DISASSEMBLY OF THE INTAKE SYSTEM OF MY CAR, IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE WIRING HARNESS HAD COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED - THE INSULATION USED ON THE WIRING HAD BECOME HARD AND BRITTLE, CAUSING MULTIPLE SHORTS AND PREVENTING IT FROM BEING RE-INSTALLED IN THE VEHICLE. THE ENTIRE ENGINE HARNESS HAD TO BE REPLACED TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. TOTAL COST APPROXIMATELY \$1100. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10144877

Summary:

Component: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING:FRONT UNDERHOOD  
Summary: WIRING HARNESS FAILURE. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 420  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10033790

Summary:

Component: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING:FRONT UNDERHOOD  
Summary: AFTER PARKING THE VEHICLE, THE CONSUMER NOTICED SMOKE COMING FROM THE STEERING COLUMN. AS A RESULT OF THE FAILURE, FIRE CAME THROUGH THE FIREWALL. THE LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE. \*AK THERE WERE NO PRIOR PROBLEMS. THE VEHICLE HAD FILLED WITH BLACK SMOKE WITH THE IGNITION OFF AND THE VEHICLE PARKED. THERE WAS NO WARNING. \*SCC \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10145500

Summary:

ALL THE INSULATION OF THE WIRES IS DISINTEGRATING ON MY MERCEDES E300 1995 IT IS VERY DANGEROUS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 124  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10143995

Summary:

UPPER ENGINE WIRING HARNESS (MB PART# A 124 440 19 06) INSULATION CRACKED IN MANY PLACES. IT DECOMPOSED/DETERIORATED SO BADLY IT EFFECTED ADDITIONAL ENGINE COMPONENTS. ENGINE STALLED MANY TIME WHILE IN TRAFFIC. HARNESS WAS REPLACES ON 04-21-2005 AND CAR REQUIRED ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE FROM MERCEDES DEALER SHIP DUE TO ECU PROBLEMS AND STILL ONGOING PROBLEMS WITH ASR (ANTI SKID CONTROL) PROBLEMS. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10143626

Summary:

THE MATERIAL AROUND THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS DEGRADED TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS NO LONGER PROTECTING THE WIRING ITSELF CAUSING IT TO MELT AND DAMAGE THE WIRES INSIDE. THIS LED TO THE CAR ONLY RUNNING ON 5 OUT OF 6 CYLINDERS INTERMITTENTLY AS WELL AS OTHER ELECTRICAL ISSUES. I HAVE HEARD MANY OTHER CASES OF THIS HAPPENING AMONG OTHER OWNERS OF THESE VEHICLES AND MANY HAVE FILED COMPLAINTS. THE P[ARTS WERE REPLACED OUT OF MY POCKET. THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT MB USA NEEDS TO ADDRESS INSTEAD OF TELLING OWNERS THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD THIS COMPLAINT BEFORE. I DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT DATE OF THE FAILURE AS IT HAPPENED MULTIPLE TIMES BEFORE BEING PROPERLY DIAGNOSED AND IT WAS APPROXIMATELY A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, I ALSO DO NOT REMEMBER THE DATE BECAUSE I JUST RECENTLY FOUND THIS WEBSITE AND THE PROBLEM OCCURRED A WHILE AGO. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10148105

#### Summary:

94 MERCEDES BENZ E320 ENGINE WIRING HARNESS HAS COMPLETELY DESINTEGRATED EXPOSING ALL WIRING IN ENGINE COMPARTMENT. AS THE ENGINE RUNS AND MISFIRES IT SPARKS AND SHORTS TO GROUND. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10148631

#### Summary:

CONSUMER COMPLAINT REGARDING 1994 MERCEDES BENZ E320 WIRING HARNESS. \*TS THE MERCEDES BENZ M-104 ENGINE WAS MANUFACTURED FROM BIODEGRADABLE MATERIALS. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS THE INSULATION ON THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS BEGAN TO DETERIORATE AND FAIL. THIS LEAD TO A CYCLE OF INCREASINGLY SEVERE ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10147769

#### Summary:

1995 MERCEDES BENZ C220 - NUMEROUS ISSUES WITH A CAR THAT ONLY HAS ABOUT 80K MILES ON IT. WE ARE THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OF THE VEHICLE. GAVE UP WITH USING MERCEDES FOR SERVICE EONS AGO....AFTER FEELING THAT WE WERE LIED TO. DEALER LED US TO BELIEVE THAT WE WERE HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE MICE NESTED IN THE CAR AND PROBABLY ATE THROUGH THE WIRING. 3 OTHER SERVICE PEOPLE HAVE THOUGHT THAT THEY SUCCESSFULLY 'FIXED' THE CAR... BUT PROBLEM RECURS (SOMETIMES WITHIN A HALF HOUR OF LEAVING REPAIR SHOP) CAR WILL NOT RUN UNLESS YOU KEEP YOU FOOT ON THE GAS CONTINUALLY.... REPLACED WIRING HARNESS COUPLE OF YEARS AGO....FREQUENT BULB BURN OUTS, SRS LIGHT IS ILLUMINATED FOR FIRST 2 MINUTES CAR IS ON THEN GOES OUT... VARIOUS GAUGES ARE OUT...FUSES BLOW...I COULD GO ON FOREVER. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10148030

#### Summary:

THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS OF MY 1995 MERCEDES-BENZ C280 (120,000 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 ISSUE. THIS IS A KNOWN ISSUE WITH MERCEDES THAT THEY REFUSE TO RECALL. THIS REPAIR WILL COST ME \$2300 TO FIX AT A NON-DEALER SHOP. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10146315

Summary:

WIRE HARNESS COMPLETELY DETERIORATED!! THIS IS NOT RIGHT FOR A CAR 10 YEARS OLD. MB USA WONT HELP AT ALL. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10148527

Summary:

I HAVE A 1995 MERCEDES BENZ E320 WHICH WAS WELL MAINTAINED. AS I WAS DRIVING TO WORK THIS MONTH, THE CAR STARTED STALLING ON THE HIGHWAY AND I WAS LUCKY I WAS NOT HIT FROM BEHIND BY OTHER FAST MOVING CARS. AFTER REPLACING IGNITION PARTS THE CAR STILL WAS STALLING AND THEN STOPPED TOTALLY. UPON EXAMINATION, ALL THE ENGINE HARNESS WIRES WERE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN TOTALLY STRIPPED OF THEIR INSULATION INSIDE THE OUTER FABRIC COVER. THEY ALL WERE CONTACTING EACH OTHER AND IT WAS HOPLESS TO FIX SINCE ALL THE WIRES FAILED AT ONCE. SEVERAL MERCEDES BENZ DEALERS KNEW OF THIS PROBLEM AND IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE TO THEM. HOWEVER, MERCEDES BENZ SEEMS TO THINK THIS PROBLEM IS NOT OF THEIR CONCERN AND CONTACTING THEM RESULTS IN REFUSAL TO REPLACE THE WIRING HARNESS AS CAR IS OUT OF WARRANTY. THIS IS A DEFECT THAT COULD INJURE BY ACCIDENT OR START A FIRE AND NOT A WARRANTY PROBLEM. MERCEDES-BENZ NEEDS TO RECALL THESE CARS AND REPLACE THE ENGINE HARNESS BEFORE SOMEONE IS UNLUCKY AND BECOMES INJURED.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10148915

**Summary:**

MY 1995 MERCEDES E320 ALMOST CUT OFF AT IDLE AFTER SEVERAL TRIPS AND COSTLY REPAIR BILLS. FINALLY DIAGNOSED AS FAULTY WIRING HARNESS. WAS TOLD BY MECHANIC THAT MERCEDES HAD A PRIVATE RECALL. DUPONT MADE SOME BIODEGRADABLE INSULATION FOR MERCEDES THAT JUST FELL APART. THIS WAS NOT FAIR TO CONSUMERS. \*AK

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10148813

**Summary:**

1994 C280 WAS BEING DRIVEN ON AN INTERSTATE WHEN THERE WAS A TOTAL LOSS OF POWER. THE CAR REQUIRED TOWING TO THE MB DEALERSHIP. THE ENGINE WIRING HARNESS HAD COMPLETELY DETERIORATED AND REQUIRED REPLACEMENT TO THE TUNE OF \$1500.00. MB IS NOT ONLY BRUSHING ASIDE ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS WELL DOCUMENTED DEFECT, THEY ARE MAKING MONEY ON THE REPAIRS, WHAT A SCAM. \*AK

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: S CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10149260

Summary:

WIRING HARNESS HAS COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED FROM THE IGNITION CONTROL UNIT ALL THE WAY TO THE ENGINE SENSORS INCLUDING WIRES THAT ARE CONNECTED TO THE FUEL INJECTION. WIRES ARE BARE AND TOUCHING. VEHICLE SMELLS ON FUEL BUT THERE ARE NO LEAKS TO BE FOUND. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU NEED PICTURES. THIS IS NOT SOME 11,000 HYUNDAI GUYS. THIS IS A 142,000 S600 MERCEDES. I FEEL FORTUNATE THAT MY CHILDREN AND MYSELF DID NOT BURN TO DEATH SOMEWHERE ON THE ROAD. I HAVE NEVER IN MY LIFE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. \*NM  
WIRING HARNESS HAS COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED FROM THE IGNITION CONTROL UNIT ALL THE WAY TO THE ENGINE SENSORS INCLUDING WIRES THAT ARE CONNECTED TO THE FUEL INJECTION. WIRES ARE BARE AND TOUCHING. VEHICLE SMELLS ON FUEL BUT THERE ARE NO LEAKS TO BE FOUND. PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU NEED PICTURES. THIS IS NOT SOME 11,000 HYUNDAI GUYS. THIS IS A 142,000 S600 MERCEDES. I FEEL FORTUNATE THAT MY CHILDREN AND MYSELF DID NOT BURN TO DEATH SOMEWHERE ON THE ROAD. I HAVE NEVER IN MY LIFE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 140  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10149418

Summary:

DISINTEGRATION OF WIRING HARNESS INSULATION ON 1993 (AND OTHERS) S-CLASS CARS CREATING FIRE HAZARD, DANGEROUS STALLING PROBLEMS AND FAILURE OF VEHICLE DRIVABILITY. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: SL  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10151360

#### Summary:

TOTAL ELECTRICAL FAILURE, ENGINE STOPPAGE, DEACTIVATION OF ABS, ASD, SEAT BELTS, ELECTRIC DOOR LOCKS, LIGHTS. WHEN GOING OVER A RAILROAD TRACT, ROAD VIBRATION CAUSED DETERIORATED WIRING INSULATION (INSIDE A BUNDLE OF WIRES) TO FALL OFF CAUSING A MASSIVE ELECTRICAL SHORT CIRCUIT. APPARENTLY SEVERAL MODEL YEARS OF THESE CARS WERE MANUFACTURED WITH WIRE INSULATION THAT 'CRUMBLES' TO A POWDER. THIS CONDITION IS NOT VISIBLE DURING ORDINARY INSPECTION AND REQUIRED ONE TO CUT OPEN THE ENCAPSULATED WIRING HARNESES. FAILED WIRING HARNESES FOR THESE CARS ARE COMMON I LEARNED FROM SEARCHING THE MDZ BULLETIN BOARDS. I HAVE 6 FAILED ELECTRONIC THROTTLE ACTUATORS (AT \$1800 EACH!!) EXHIBITING THIS TYPE OF FAILURE. ONE EXHIBITED UNCOMMANDED WIDE OPEN THROTTLE. THE OTHERS FAILED BY ENTERING THE 'LIMP HOME' MODE. MERCEDES BENZ NORTH AMERICA IS AWARE OF THIS SERIOUS DEFECT BUT REFUSES TO REPAIR OR WARRANT THIS DEFECTIVE SAFETY SYSTEM. I WAS SHOCKED THAT MY CAR SHUT OFF COMPLETELY AND A SMALL FIRE ERUPTED IN THE MAIN ENGINE WIRING COMPARTMENT HARNESS. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E CLASS  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10152244

#### Summary:

THE IGNITION MODULE (ALSO KNOWN AS AN EZL) IN MY 500E SHORTED OUT, CAUSING MY CAR TO LOSE SPARK TO 4 OUT OF 8 CYLINDERS (ONE-HALF MY ENGINE), AND THREW MY CAR INTO "LIMP-HOME" MODE, NEARLY CAUSING AN ACCIDENT. THIS HAPPENED WHILE I WAS BEGINNING TO MERGE ONTO THE #405 FREEWAY IN LOS ANGELES. I BELIEVE THE DISINTEGRATING ENGINE WIRING HARNESES MERCEDES BENZ HAS INSTALLED IN THE MAJORITY OF THEIR MODEL YEAR 1991-1995 PRODUCTION IS WHAT CAUSED THIS OUTRAGEOUSLY EXPENSIVE MODULE TO FAIL. PLACING ME IN A VERY DANGEROUS AND TENSE SITUATION. PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING WEB PAGE TO READ NEARLY ONE-HUNDRED FIFTY SIMILAR COMPLAINTS:

[http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints\\_nhtsa\\_mercedes\\_wiring\\_harness\\_failures\\_1992\\_1995.html](http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints_nhtsa_mercedes_wiring_harness_failures_1992_1995.html)

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10152192

Summary:

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MERCEDES AUTOMOBILES SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1994 AND 1995 WERE EQUIPPED WITH "BIODEGRADABLE" ENGINE ELECTRIC HARNESSSES. THE INSULATION ON THESE, INCLUDING MY CAR, HAVE DETERIORATED AND BECOME UNSAFE, CAUSING SHORTING BETWEEN WIRES. MY INFORMATION IS THAT MERCEDES HAS REFUSED TO CONSIDER THIS A RECALL ISSUE. REPLACING THE HARNESS COSTS APPROXIMATELY \$1,400. IN ADDITION TO THE COST, THIS IS A REAL SAFETY ISSUE. MY REQUEST IS THAT MERCEDES BE CONTACTED AND CONVINCED THAT IT IS IN THEIR BEST INTEREST TO REPLACE THESE HARNESSSES BEFORE IT CAUSES SOME EXPENSIVE AND DANGEROUS FIRES.

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400E  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10152151

Summary:

VEHICLE CHECKED AND FOUND THAT INSULATION ON ALL OF THE FUEL INJECTION WIRING, TEMPERATURE SENSOR AND FAN THERMAL SWITCH HARNESS DETERIORATED CAUSING WIRES TO RUB TOGETHER. CONSUMER DISCOVERED THAT HARNESS INSULATION IS MADE OF VERY POOR MATERIAL .THE INSULATION BREAKS VERY EASY AT THE TOUCH AND TURNS INTO DUST. THE WHOLE ~~WIRE~~ HARNESS IS IN THE SAME SITUATION. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 400  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10152570

**Summary:**

REMOVED AND REPLACED ENGINE HARNESS WIRING, (1992 MERCEDES BENZ 400SE)  
BASE CONTROL MODULE, CAM SHAFT POSITION SENSOR.

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: E320  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1995  
Complaint Number: 10153489

**Summary:**

MERCEDES BENZ M104 ENGINE ELECTRICAL WIRE HARNESS INSULATION FLAKES  
OFF AND SHORTS OUT WIRES. POSSIBLE ENGINE FIRE COULD RESULT.  
MANUFACTURER HAS REPLACED SOME OF THESE IN A RANDOM FASHION, UNDER A  
GOOD WILL WARRANTY. \*NM

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: C220  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1994  
Complaint Number: 10151271

Summary:

MY CAR BEGAN TO SUFFER ELECTRICAL AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. OVER THE COURSE OF A MONTH, MY CAR WAS AT THE MECHANIC ALMOST EVERY DAY WITH ODD NEW PROBLEMS. MY WORST FEAR HAD COME TRUE, AS MY MECHANIC HAD WARNED ME. MY CAR'S WIRE HARNESS HAD BEGAN TO FALL APART, EVEN SIMPLY TOUCHING IS WOULD CAUSE IT TO DISINTERGRATED WHICH CAUSED MANY PROBLEMS FOR MY CAR. MY MECHANIC TOLD ME FOR THE EARLY 90S TO 95 MODEL YEARS THEY HAVE CHANGED MANY OF THE WIRE HARNESS ON THESE CAR'S. I CONTACTED MERCEDES WANTING TO WORK OUT A DEAL FOR THEIR DEFECTIVE WIRE HARNESSES, AND WAS TOLD NO SUCH PROBLEM EXISTED. CUSTOMER SERVICE WAS VERY RUDE TO ME, AND IT ENDED WITH MERCEDES ACCUSING ME OF CREATING A FALSE CLAIM TO EXTORT THE COMPANY. I WAS HURT BY THE WAY THEY TREATED ME, AND VOWED NEVER TO BUY A NEW MERCEDES AGAIN. I HAVE MY OLD WIRE HARNESS, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN TOUCH SOME SECTIONS OF IT...IT'LL SIMPLY FALL APART. IN THE END I PAID \$2000 DOLLARS FOR A NEW HARNESS, INSTALL...FEW DAYS WORTH OF DIAGNOSIS TIME WAS ADDED TO THE BILL ALSO, AND THE POWER SURGES CAUSED MY BULBS AND SOME MINOR PARTS TO BLOW, IN TOTAL AFTER TAXES I WAS IN IT FOR \$3000 DOLLARS. MERCEDES THINKS I'M LYING AND THIS PROBLEM NEVER EXISTED...CUSTOMER SERVICE WAS RUDE ENOUGH TO TELL ME, ITS NOT THEIR FAULT IF I GOT RIPPED OFF...EXACTLY RIPPED OFF BUYING A MERCEDES. \*JB

### NHTSA Complaint Summary

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 190  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 835649

Summary:

WHILE DRIVING ABOUT 20 MPH, WITHOUT NO PRIOR WARNING, THE VEHICLE DIED OUT. CONSUMER HAD THE VEHICLE TOWED TO HER HOUSE, AND VEHICLE CAUGHT ON FIRE DUE TO AN ELECTRICAL SHORT. \*AK

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 600  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1993  
Complaint Number: 10152808

**Summary:**

1993 MERCEDES BENZ 600 SL - ENGINE MAIN WIRING HARNESS HAS DISINTEGRATED. THIS CAR HAS UNDER 80,000 MILES ON IT. \*JB

### **NHTSA Complaint Summary**

Make: MERCEDES BENZ  
Model: 300 SERIES  
Type: ANY  
Year: 1992  
Complaint Number: 10152349

**Summary:**

I HAVE A 1992 300CE AND I WAS INFORMED LAST WEEK BY THE MECHANIC THAT THE WIRING HARNESS IS CRACKING AND PEELING. AFTER READING THE MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR WIRING HARNESS CAUSING A FIRE I AM CONCERNED. THE PROBLEM THAT I AM HAVING IS THE CAR ALARM, RADIO, AND LEFT HEADLIGHT SOCKET PLUG IS DAMAGE DUE TO ELECTRICAL FAULT. I AM CONSIDERING REPLACING THE WIRE HARNESS. \*JB