



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

29-JUL-2005

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10130571

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name
Address
City FRESNO State CA Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

Evening Telephone Number

E-mail Address

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 7/29/05

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side 1AU231023XA Make ALFA Model TRAVEL TRAILER Model Year 1999

Date Purchased
15-MAY-99

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number
PAUL EVERTS RV

Engine:
No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner
☒

Dealer's City
FRESNO

State
CA

Zip Code

Transmission Type ☐ Antilock Brakes
☐ Cruise Control

Powertrain

Vehicle Component Code
191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Multiple Failure: 4

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 18-JUL-2002 THRU 26 DEC 2004 Failure Mileage 9700 Failure Speed 610
60

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make
FIRESTONE

Tire Model (Name or Number)
STEELTEX R4SII

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
75R16 LT 245/75 R16

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19A5C036)
V611B1A099 V611B1A109

☒ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code
191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Tire Failure Type TREAD SEPARATION

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 0 Number of Deaths 0 Reported to Police ☒ Yes

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: WHILE TOWING A FIFTH WHEEL, AND AFTER LESS THAN 10,000 MILES ON FOUR OF THE 80 PSI FIRESTONE TIRES ALL COMPLETELY SEPARATED FROM THEIR TREAD. THREE OF THE TIRES STAYED INFLATED AFTER THE SEPARATION, BUT THE FOURTH BLEW OUT AT THE TIME OF SEPARATION. ON THE FIRST INSTANCE THE DEALER SAID THE TIRES WERE DEFECTIVE, AND ADVISED CONSUMER TO CHECK ALL THE TIRES WITH THAT VIN. *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 to 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.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

I HAD OVER \$900 DAMAGE ON THE LAST
BLowout. FIRESTONE TIRE REFUSED ANY
REINBURSEMENT.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

US Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73173 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

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

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



**VEHICLE
OWNER'S**

QUESTIONNAIRE

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM

OR

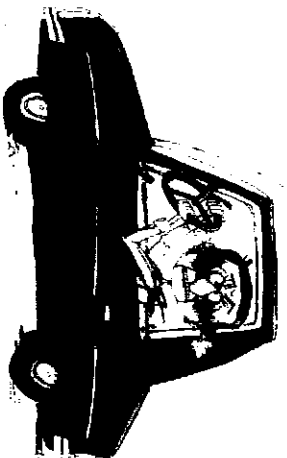
DASH2DOT

and dial toll free at

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-4236

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
(DASH) 2 DOT



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration
www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

BFNT LLC

1102 Appleton
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

REF. NO. 915729
4/11/2005 915729

[REDACTED]
Fresno, CA [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Our office has received your tire (STEELTEX RADIAL R4S II, LT245/75R16 DOT No.V611B1A109) and it has been inspected by our Technical Services Manager.

We have carefully inspected the tire. That inspection showed that this tire was operated for an unknown period of time with insufficient air pressure to carry the load. That insufficient air pressure condition is evidenced by the tattered sidewalls and the melted innerliner, and was the cause of the subsequent damage. The tire failure did not result from a defect in either materials or workmanship.

While we regret that you have had this difficulty we must respectfully deny your request for compensation. You may consider turning this incident over to your vehicle insurance provider for their consideration and possible compensation.

If you would like your tire returned, please mail the attached tire return letter to Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. within twenty-one (21) days from the date of this letter. If we have not heard from you within the twenty-one (21) day period, we reserve the right to dispose of the tire.

Very truly yours,

Norma Y. Davis

Norma Y. Davis
Paralegal

Attachment

April 25, 2005

BFNT LLC
1102 Appleton
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

Re: Ref # 915729
Steeltex Radial R4S11, LT245/75R16

Sirs:

I believe your analysis is incorrect in the matter of my tire. I very seldom had to add air to these tires. Only after periods of temperature change did I have to add small amounts of air. I did inflate the tires to 80 pounds just before leaving on our trip. The tire pressure was good two hours before the blowout when I bought fuel in Bakersfield, California.

I am enclosing a record of how the tires have performed that came with this 5th wheel. Tire #1 threw its tread on July 18, 2002 returning from Reno. It still had 80 lbs pressure after the incident. The Firestone dealer in Sacramento said the tire was defective and replaced the tire. He also said all my tires with that dot number should be inspected for defects. He did not have time to do it that day.

On July 25, 2002, the Firestone dealer in San Luis Obispo, California inspected tire #2 which had the same dot number and said it was defective and adjusted it for the remaining tread.

On August 30, 2002, tire #3 threw its tread some where between Golden Colorado and Fort Collins, Colorado. When I pulled into the RV park, the tread was gone and the tire was still fully inflated with 80 lbs. of pressure. That Firestone dealer charged me half price for a new tire. I had no tread to measure. When tire #4 blew and caused all the damage, I could not find a Firestone store open in Barstow, California at 4 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 26, 2004. I had to use the only tire store open.

Looking back at my problems with these tires, I don't see tire pressure as being the problem and I don't think it was the problem with tire #4. I am sure the tattered sidewalls were a result of the blow out. It takes some time to slow down and get off on the shoulder of the road.

I think you should reevaluate your decision for compensation and reimburse me for the 75% tread left on the tire, and the \$40.50 shipping cost.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Fresno, California [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).**