

Fires, Engine

From: Fires, Engine
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2005 5:49 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Jordan, Michael
Subject: RE: engine fire

10132141

NVS-216 mjj
Reference No. 10132141

[REDACTED]
Maynardville, TN [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your e-mail correspondence dated August 15, 2005, concerning a problem you encountered with your model year (MY) 1996 Ford F150 vehicle.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We greatly appreciate the photographs you provided and the previous report you filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Vehicle Safety Hotline (Hotline) on August 9, 2005. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

On November 19, 2004, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a safety defect investigation (PE04-078) into 36 reports alleging the occurrence of an engine compartment fire in MY 2000 Ford F-150, Ford Expedition, and Lincoln Navigator vehicles, all of which indicated the vehicle was parked with the ignition turned to the off position. On January 27, 2005, Ford Motor Company (Ford) notified NHTSA that it would conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 05V-017) to remedy a defect determined to exist with the speed control deactivation switch in certain MY 2000 and 2001 Ford F-150, Ford Expedition, and Lincoln Navigator vehicles, which could result in an engine compartment fire. On March 22, 2005, ODI upgraded PE04-078 to an engineering analysis (EA05-005) and redefined the scope of the investigation to include certain MY 1995 through 2002 Ford F-150 and MY 1997 through 2002 Ford Expedition and Lincoln Navigator vehicles, minus those vehicles subject to Ford's safety recall. An engineering analysis is a more detailed and complete technical analysis of the character and scope of an alleged defect. The engineering analysis has been opened to determine whether other Ford vehicles equipped with a similar speed control deactivation switch should have been included in the safety recall. Results of our investigation will be made public

8/16/2005

upon its completion.

Further, we would like to obtain specific information concerning the problem you have encountered with your vehicle (e.g., any additional photographs you may have of your vehicle as only 2 digital photographs were attached to your e-mail correspondence; a copy of the Fire Department's fire report; written communication between yourself, Ford, and the insurance company; and copies of service invoices you may have in your possession). Please keep the original documentation for yourself and only provide us with copies. When you submit this documentation to the agency, please write "REFERENCE NUMBER 10132141" in the subject line of your cover letter and send the requested documentation to:

ATTN: Michael J. Jordan
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation (NVS-216)
400 Seventh Street, SW (Room 2318)
Washington, DC 20590

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can contact our toll-free Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A Hotline representative will return your call.

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ) is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

If further assistance is needed, please contact me at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Jordan
Safety Defects Program Assistant
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

cc: Office of Defects Investigation, Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles Division (NVS-214)

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

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2005 8:52 PM
To: Fires, Engine
Subject: engine fire

8/16/2005

confirmation # 10132141

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