

August 19, 2005

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NHTSA Headquarters
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

10135623

Dear NHTSA,

Re: 1993 Jeep Cherokee, Country and similar Jeep models. Underbody / Fire Hazard

In 1993 I purchased the above vehicle new from a dealer in Houston, Texas. Even though the vehicle would not be exposed to road salt in that area I had the dealer undercoat the entire vehicle. In addition, I applied a rubberized undercoating numerous times as a result of chips from rocks. The vehicle has been completely sealed since purchase. One of the things I noticed with this vehicle was a large amount of heat transfer to the floor board above the exhaust system which extends from the front passenger compartment to below the rear seat. I returned the vehicle to the dealer and received the standard customary answer that this was a characteristic of that vehicle and not to worry about it. I relocated to Illinois and decided to inspect the underside of my vehicle for any chips or cracks in the undercoating. I found several small holes and was able to see the carpeting. I removed the front and rear seats and to my surprise found the floor board has been rotting from the inside out above the exhaust system. I also found a substantial amount of water from the front to the rear of the vehicle located above the exhaust system. Let me add that the condensation from my air conditioner is not the cause as the water is going thru the drain tube and onto the ground. With the carpet and seats removed I operated my A/C and observed water pouring out of the drain tube to the ground. Not one drop of water leaked inside the vehicle. I believe the water is as a result of the extreme heat from the exhaust system followed by rapid cooling. I have no doubt that as the floor board continues to rot away and the heat continues to increase a fire will result. I would once again like to stress that to date this vehicle has never been exposed to road salt or snow. The vehicle has spent most of it's life in a garage and has had several coats of undercoating applied. I am sure that there are many vehicles with the same problem and that the owners are not aware of this. In addition to the threat of a fire there is no protection from objects that can come through the floor of the vehicle and possible injure a front or rear passenger. I would like to see some type of a recall issued to correct

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this problem by insulating the right side of the vehicle from the extreme heat being transferred from the exhaust system. I also feel that Chrysler should be required to repair the floor of the vehicles that have been damaged by the heat. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lincoln, IL 