

APR - 5 2006

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Ila, GA

Dear [Redacted]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10151938

Thank you for your correspondence dated February 7 concerning a crash involving your 1991 Toyota 4-Runner truck. On behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), we express our sympathy to you and your family for the loss of your son. Your correspondence was received on February 27. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding to you may have caused.

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.

By letter dated September 6, 2005, Toyota Motor North America, Inc., (Toyota) notified NHTSA that it would conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 05V-389) to remedy a defect found to exist in the steering relay rod of certain 1989 through 1998 Toyota trucks. Manufacturers are required to notify vehicle owners when a determination has been made that a safety-related defect exists within a particular motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment. Toyota made that determination in October 2005, and owner notification letters were mailed between September 2005 and February 2006.

With regard to determining whether the steering relay rod may have played a role in the crash that occurred on August 29, 2003, and resulted in the death of your son, only an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to the cause in a specific crash. Your insurance

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agency may be able to provide you with helpful information in locating such an expert. As noted above, we have no authority to become involved in disputes between individual owners or manufacturers.

I hope this information is helpful. If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 366-5211.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

NHTSA: NVS-210: General Response
NVS-216: mec 66257
NHTSA Control No. ES06-001155
ODI Control No. 10151938
Draft: mec 03/21/06
Revised:
Final: 3/22/06 aac, 3/22/06 aac, mec 4/4/06
cc:
NEC-110, NIA-110
NVS-200, NVS-216
Subject/Chron/Optical Disk/CRD
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