

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2006 NOV -7 P 3:45

October 30, 2006

NATIONAL
TRAFFIC SAFETY

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Firestone Tire Recall
Class Action Cause No B-179,462

Gentlemen,

I received a letter from Firestone Tire dated September, 2006 advising to visit an authorized Firestone dealer to "Have these tires replaced at no cost to you."

This is an insult since this defective recall happened six years and two vehicles ago. Who would have these defective tires accessible from six years previous?

This is the second time Firestone Tire has given me the proverbial run around. I previously owned a Firestone 500 tire that exploded and caused a near fatal accident. I went to Firestone dealer that advise I either had too little or too much tire pressure-which was not the case. As a salesman, I averaged 50,000 miles a year and was very aware of car maintenance including tire pressures. I had the tire replaced with another brand. Two weeks later, Firestone announced the Firestone 500 tire was defective and could cause separation between the steel belting, which is what happen to me. I returned to the same Firestone dealer that inspected the defective tire and he advised he disposed of the tire in question. I called the corporate office and they advised they would not replace the tire until I could produce the defective tire. How convenient.

I purchased a 1995 Ford Explorer 1FMDU32XOST [REDACTED] with Firestone Radial ATX Tires. When I noticed that there was a problem with the tires I went back to the dealer who advised I need to contact an authorized Firestone dealer which I did. They said there was nothing wrong with the tires. I then went to an independent tire company and a Goodyear dealer that advised there, in fact, was something wrong with the tires, and the separation was obvious to them. I went to another authorized Firestone dealer (Hibdon Tire of Norman) who advised there was a problem with the tires but they were not authorized to replace them, at their expense. So I had the defective Firestone tires replaced with another brand. It wasn't long thereafter that Firestone recalled the tires and AGAIN requested for the defective tires to be returned for inspection and possible replacement. I AGAIN went to the authorized Firestone tire dealer (Hibdon) that also advised the defective tires have been disposed and not available.

Annamari
11/14/06

If I had been in a fatal accident, my family would have sued Firestone for damages. But since I had the foresight to replace the defective tires BEFORE there was an accident, I have been given the run around for six years.

I trust you will review my petition for compensation in a fair and objective manner. Attached is some documentation showing how I have tried to have this situation resolved.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Norman, OK [REDACTED]

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE NORTH AMERICAN TIRE, LLC

535 Marriott Drive
Nashville, TN 37214

September 2006

21-A-0005867

00020



1EMDU32X0S

NORMAN, OK

Dear Customer:

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Información Importante de seguridad

- **Your vehicle may have tires that have been recalled.**
Su vehículo puede estar utilizando llantas que por motivos de seguridad han sido retiradas del mercado.
- **Your spare tire may also have been recalled.**
Su llanta de repuesto puede también haber sido retirada del mercado.
- **These tire(s) can be replaced at no cost to you.**
Estas llantas pueden ser reemplazadas sin que usted incurra en costo alguno.
- **Carefully read this letter to determine if your vehicle has one or more of these tires and what to do if it does.**
Lea cuidadosamente esta carta para determinar si su vehículo tiene una o mas de estas llantas, y que pasos debe seguir para que estas sean reemplazadas.

Si no puede leer esta carta o requiere asistencia adicional en Español, por favor comuníquese a nuestra línea de asistencia gratuita en Español al 1-800-465-1904.

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC ("Firestone") is sending you this important notice regarding the safety of your tires. Please read this letter carefully.

Vehicle registration records list you as the current owner of a Ford Explorer, Mercury Mountaineer, or Mazda Navajo. As you may be aware, Firestone conducted campaigns in 2000 and 2001 to replace P235/75R15 Radial ATX or Radial ATX II tires, and certain P235/75R15 and P255/70R16 Wilderness AT tires, most of which were supplied as original equipment on one of those vehicles. Ford also conducted a campaign to replace some of these tires. These tires may sustain a tread separation in which the outer belt and tread may separate from the tire. If this occurs, you could lose control of your vehicle, which could result in a crash.

It is possible that you may not have owned the vehicle when these programs were first announced, and thus you may not have received our initial letters on these subjects. Therefore, we are contacting you about this issue today to ask you to make certain that the affected tires are not on your vehicle – ***including in the spare tire position***. Tires in these replacement campaigns were handled by many different automotive garages and tire service locations and the spare tire

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 NORMAN OK ██████████
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CAUSE NO. B-170,462

TERRI SHIELDS, on behalf of herself
 and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC., and
 BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION,

Defendants.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

172nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF CLASS ACTION, PROPOSED SETTLEMENT, AND HEARING

To: Anyone who purchased, leased, or owned Firestone-made tires at any time between 1991 and the end of 2002. A proposed nationwide settlement of class action litigation involving purchasers and owners of certain types and sizes of Firestone-made tires has been reached in Terri Shields v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. and Bridgestone Corporation, a case pending in the Jefferson County, Texas District Court ("the Court"). Personal injury or property damage claims are not involved.

Please Read This Notice Carefully: This Notice Is Sent To You By Order Of The Court. It Describes The Proposed Settlement Of A Class Action Lawsuit In Which You May Be A Member Of The Tire Settlement Class And The Alternative Courses Of Action That You May Take. If You Are Uncertain Whether This Notice Applies To You, You May Call, Toll Free, 1-866-354-7995.

1.0: PURPOSE OF NOTICE

1.1. Purpose. This Notice is provided to you pursuant to an Order of the District Court in the 172nd Judicial District, Jefferson County, Texas. The purpose of this Notice is to inform you of this lawsuit and a Proposed Settlement that may affect your rights.

1.2. Court Approval. The Proposed Settlement is subject to approval by the Court. If it is approved, it would result in (i) settlement benefits described below and (ii) the dismissal of claims asserted on your behalf as a member of the Class against Defendants Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire, LLC, Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc., and Bridgestone Corp. ("Defendants").

1.3. No Determination Of Liability. This Notice is not and should not be construed as an expression of any opinion by

July 23, 2001

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.
P.O. Box 1966
Southgate, MI 48195-9970

Attention; R. J. Wyant
Division Vice President
Corporate Quality Assurance

Re: Refund Request for Firestone Radial ATX Tires
1995 Ford Explorer 1FMDU32XOS [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 2001 advising the termination date of August 29, 2001 for honoring requests for reimbursement.

I have unsuccessfully tried to obtain a refund when contacted by Firestone last fall. After speaking to several customer service representatives at Firestone, they all advised it was necessary for me to furnish the DOT serial numbers on the defective tires I replaced on July 10, 1998, almost three years ago. Neither the company that replaced the tires (Hibdon Tire Centers) or myself could furnish this information.

Please find attached my previous letter to Bridgestone/Firestone dated Sept. 12, 2000 requesting a refund. Also attached is my copy as proof of tire replacement from Hibdon Tire Centers in Norman, OK.

As a professional salesman that travels approx. 30,000 miles a year, I find it difficult to accept the fact that the tires were found defective by a well established tire supplier, that has been in business for over 30 years, BEFORE Bridgestone/Firestone publicly admitted same. Because I had the foresight to replace the defective tires before I had an accident-I am being penalized for being safety conscious. What would have been the purpose of saving those tires as proof before the announced recall? How could you expect me to have the DOT information your company requires after three years? I apologize for my anger but I could have been a statistic instead of an irate consumer.

I am looking forward to your reply and the requested refund.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]
Norman, Ok [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

cc: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Firestone®

June 25, 2001



1FMDU32 [REDACTED] 00T-005 V3 0000238/03377

[REDACTED]
NORMAN, OK [REDACTED]

Dear Valued Firestone Customer:

As you know, on August 9, 2000 our company voluntarily recalled approximately 6.5 million tires. These tires were size *P235/75R15 Wilderness AT tires made in our Decatur, Illinois plant and all Radial ATX and ATX II tires of the same size*. With the cooperation of the driving public and the help of our dealers, store employees and Ford dealerships, we have accomplished the remarkable task of replacing more than 6.3 million of these tires, but we are not satisfied with 97%.

We know that there are vehicles on the road today that are still fitted with recalled tires. We are urging all consumers who have not yet replaced their *P235/75R15 Radial ATX, ATXII or Decatur-produced Wilderness AT tires of the same size* to do so immediately. There is a more than adequate supply of Firestone tires available and our more than 8,500 authorized participating retailers stand ready to replace the recalled tires without delay. To find your nearest retail location, please call our consumer hotline at 1-800-465-1904 or visit our website at www.firestone.com.

As allowed under Federal Regulations, Firestone has also announced that it will officially conclude the August 2000 recall as of the close of business August 29, 2001. We ask any consumers who have not yet replaced recalled tires to do so by that date. In addition, if a consumer chooses to have the recalled tires replaced at a competitor's tire store, Firestone will continue to honor requests for reimbursement so long as the request is complete and is postmarked by midnight August 29, 2001. For details on Firestone's reimbursement program, please visit our website or your local Firestone retailer.

We want to thank you for your cooperation and your understanding and we regret any inconvenience this recall may have caused you. If you have any questions about the recall please call the consumer hotline at 1-800-465-1904.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

R. J. Wyant
Division Vice President
Corporate Quality Assurance

Ford Motor Company

October 12, 2000

Norman, OK

|||||

1995 Ford Explorer

Vehicle ID #: 1FMDU32X0S

Dear

At Ford Motor Company, providing the highest level of customer satisfaction is our top priority. In recent weeks, you have probably heard or seen media coverage concerning the Firestone tire recall, and you may have received or soon may be receiving a recall notification letter from Firestone.

We at Ford Motor Company want to make sure that you clearly understand everything you need to know concerning the Firestone recall. On the back of this letter, you'll find a diagram and the information you require to determine if this recall includes tires on your vehicle and what, if anything, you need to do.

First, the only tires involved in this recall are certain Firestone 15" light truck and SUV tires. Once again, the information listed on the back of this letter will help you determine if your tires are affected by this recall. Next, our analysis of Firestone data clearly indicates that all other Firestone Wilderness AT tires used as original equipment on Ford products are performing at world-class quality levels.

The Firestone tire recall has created a tremendous demand for replacement tires and, due to this large demand, there may be temporary shortages of replacement tires. However, we want to assure you that Ford and Firestone, as well as the entire tire industry, are making extraordinary efforts to increase the number of tires available for this recall, including:

- Ford has voluntarily idled three vehicle assembly plants for three weeks and is diverting these tires from vehicle production to the replacement effort.
- Ford has identified over 30 Firestone and other brand tires that can be used as replacements for this recall.
- Firestone has authorized additional locations to perform recall tire replacements, including certain Ford and Mercury Dealers, along with Sunoco Ultra Service Centers, Costco Wholesale, Monro Muffler/Brake, and participating Midas stores.

Please call the above facilities in advance to determine tire availability and to make an appointment. If you have your tires replaced elsewhere, you may be able to obtain reimbursement from Firestone of up to \$100 per tire. For more details about this reimbursement offer, you can call Firestone at 1-800-465-1904.

As always, you should drive cautiously, wear your safety belt and monitor tire performance, including these easy steps:

- Use a tire gauge to maintain proper tire pressures. Recent information from Firestone recommends inflating Firestone P235/75R15 15" tires on Ford Explorer, Explorer Sport, Mercury Mountaineer, and Mazda Navajo to 30 psi. If you have a 2001 Explorer Sport Trac, you should inflate only your front tires to 30 psi, and the rear tires should remain at 35 psi. You will be receiving an updated tire inflation label with this information in a separate mailing.
- If you have tires other than the Firestone tires mentioned above, inflate your tires to the pressure shown on the tire pressure label on your vehicle.
- If you notice irregular tread wear and noise or vibration, immediately have your tires checked by a qualified tire service facility.

Log on to www.ford.com to keep up-to-date on the number and names of replacement tire brands, replacement outlets, and vital facts and figures related to this recall. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of the Firestone recall, do not hesitate to call us at 1-800-660-4719 or e-mail us at tireinquiry@ford.com.

We are absolutely committed to enhancing your safety and maintaining your trust, and we will put forth our greatest efforts to keep you informed during this Firestone tire recall.

Sincerely,

Marion Higgins
Vice President, Ford North America

BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.

50 Century Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: 615-872-5000
Fax No.: 615-872-1599

August, 2000

1FMDU32X0S [REDACTED] DOT-005 0649697/01245

NORMAN, OK [REDACTED]



Dear Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Bridgestone/Firestone has decided that a defect related to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Firestone Radial ATX and Radial ATX II tires in the size P235/75R15 and in Firestone Wilderness AT tires in the size P235/75R15 produced in its Decatur, Illinois plant. The defect may not exist in all of these tires.

The tires in question may sustain tread belt separation, in which the outer steel belt and or tread of the tire separate from and may eventually become totally detached from the rest of the tire.

Tire tread belt separation can lead to a loss of control and a vehicle crash can occur, particularly if the driver engages in significant braking or steering before the vehicle is fully under control.

In order to reduce the potential for accidents, Bridgestone/Firestone is recalling the following tires:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Serial Numbers</u>
Firestone ATX	P235/75R15	Any/All
Firestone ATX II	P235/75R15	Any/All
Firestone Wilderness AT	P235/75R15	VD

Vehicle/sales registration records show that your vehicle when purchased may have been equipped with the tires included in this recall or that you purchased one or more replacement tires that may be included in this recall. Therefore, please check your tires to determine whether they are P235/75R15 Firestone ATX or P235/75R15 Firestone ATX II.

If you have a P235/75R15 Wilderness AT, you must further check the serial number to determine if the tire was produced at the Decatur, Illinois Plant.

The serial number is located on either the inside or outside of your tire in the lower sidewall area directly above the rim flange and is preceded by the letters "DOT". The first 2 digits VD identify the tires produced at the Decatur, Illinois Plant (see example below).

September 12, 2000

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.
PO Box 1966
Southgate, MI 48195-9970

Reference: Tire Recall Notice 0649697

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that my Ford Explorer came with Firestone ATX tires. Ever since I purchased this vehicle, I have experienced tire problems. Two tires were showing signs of separation. When I approached the dealer (Joe Coker Ford, Midwest City, OK) they recommended I take my complaint to Firestone-which I did. I contacted the nearest dealer in Norman, OK and spoke to the zone manager from Dallas who advised I either had too much air pressure or not enough, or I didn't have my tires rotated and balanced. Not being able to get any satisfaction from Firestone, I immediately replaced all four tires, even though there was no significant wear. Since I drive extensively in my sales position, I couldn't take a chance with a tire failure similar to that which I had on a set of Firestone 500 which exploded due to a similar tire tread separation. Two weeks after replacing the Firestone 500, there was an official recall and I was unable to furnish the defective tires for a settlement. Such is the situation again.

(Tires are regularly rotated)

Attached is a copy of the set of tires I purchased to replace the defective Firestone ATX.

I am extremely dissatisfied with the service I received from Firestone on replacing both sets of tires. They made it appear that the problem was with my lack of knowledge as how to maintain my vehicle and they did not have these problems with anyone else.

I would appreciate someone looking into this matter and advising me.

Very truly yours,

