



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

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10197369

2008 FEB - 12 11:20:30

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Address

Evening Telephone Number

City

BURLINGTON FLASK FLATS

State NY

Zip Code

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 / /

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

4X4FCRF294P

Make
FOREST RIVER

Model
TRAVEL TRAILER

Model Year
2004

Date Purchased
16-JUL-07

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Engine:
No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner
☐

Dealer's City

State

Zip Code

Transmission Type

☐ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

☐ Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code
192000 TIRES:SIDEWALL

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
16-JUL-2007

Failure Mileage
500

Failure Speed

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)

☐ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

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

Number of Deaths

Reported to Police

N

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).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2004 FOREST RIVER CEDAR CREEK 30LBHF TRAVEL TRAILER. THE CONTACT STATED THAT BETWEEN THE FRAME AND TIRE, LIES A PIECE OF IRON THAT RUBS ON THE TIRES. AS A RESULT, THE PIECE OF IRON CUTS AWAY AT THE TIRES AND HAS WORN DOWN THE SIDEWALLS. THE DEALER AND THE MANUFACTURER STATED THAT THE VEHICLE IS NO LONGER UNDER WARRANTY SINCE SHE IS NOT THE ORIGINAL OWNER. THE TIRES HAVE NOT BEEN REPLACED. THE CURRENT AND FAILURE MILEAGES WERE 500. NO OTHER VEHICLE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED.

↑
estimated
No odometer on
Trailer

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 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.

Reference #: 10197369

Date: August 7, 2007

Subject: 2004 Cedar Creek 5th Wheel Trailer

We purchased through private sale a 2004 Cedar Creek 5th Wheel. The unit has had very little use; we estimated less than 500 miles of towing. We understand that it was originally sold by Leatherstocking RV in Oneonta, NY, then sold again and then we purchased it 7/16/07, we are the 3rd owners.

After we got it home we were underneath the unit, cleaning and painting the frame and noticed the inside of all 4 tires were worn down. Upon examination we realized there were 4 steel brackets protruding from the frame by each tire. The brackets had very little clearance to each tire, they varied a little bit bracket to bracket and we would estimate the clearance to be 1/32" to 3/8". It appears that when towed the brackets came in contact with the inside sidewall of the tire and abraded the sidewall away. This effect would be worsened as the trailer corners and sways.

To us this was either a design defect or manufacturing defect; maybe brackets to handle the frame through manufacturing that were made too long or should have been removed. It appears to be an existing condition and was not something added or modified. Our concern is with this kind of defect that was not obvious unless you crawled under the unit and observed. In time, it would likely cause the tire to fail and potentially cause personal and/or property damage.

We contacted Leatherstocking RV and they told us because we were not original owners they would not do anything to cover it under warranty. We called Forest River and they told us the same thing. They indicated they have never heard of such a thing. I informed them that we would pursue our concern with the NHTSA as instructed in our owner's manual.

Since the time we filed our report, we removed the 4 brackets by removing the tires and cutting the brackets off the frame. We then took the trailer to a local garage for NYS inspection and in particular inspection of the wear on the tires. They felt that 2 of the tires needed to be replaced and the other 2 were worn but satisfactory. We had the 2 tires replaced, refer to attached bill.

I would have expected the manufacturer to take responsibility for correcting the defect and replacing all 4 tires. The fact that we are not the original owners is not a factor in the defect and the potential for failure it creates. We can't imagine there are not other trailers from this manufacturer that may have a similar defect and damage.

Sincerely,



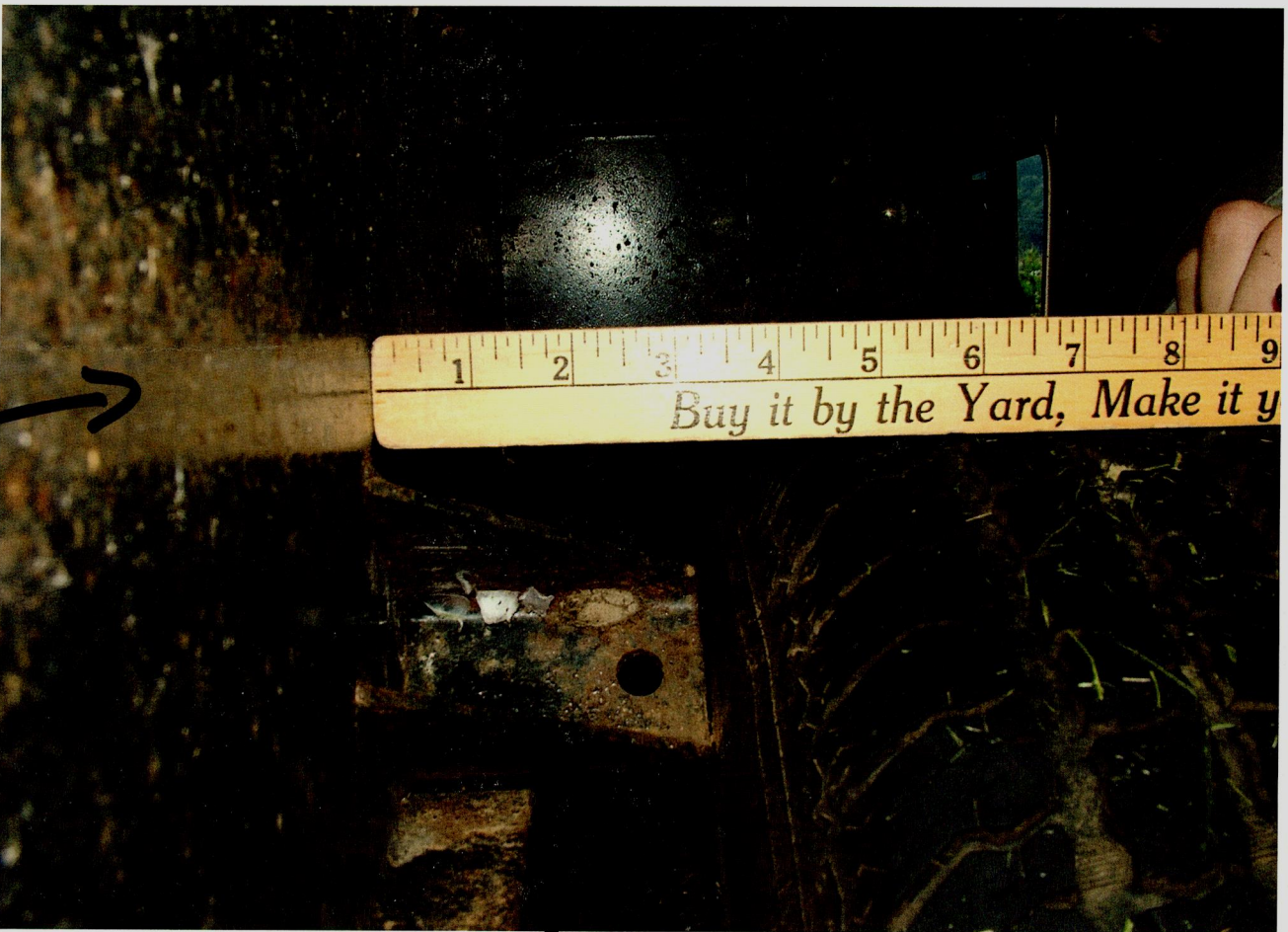
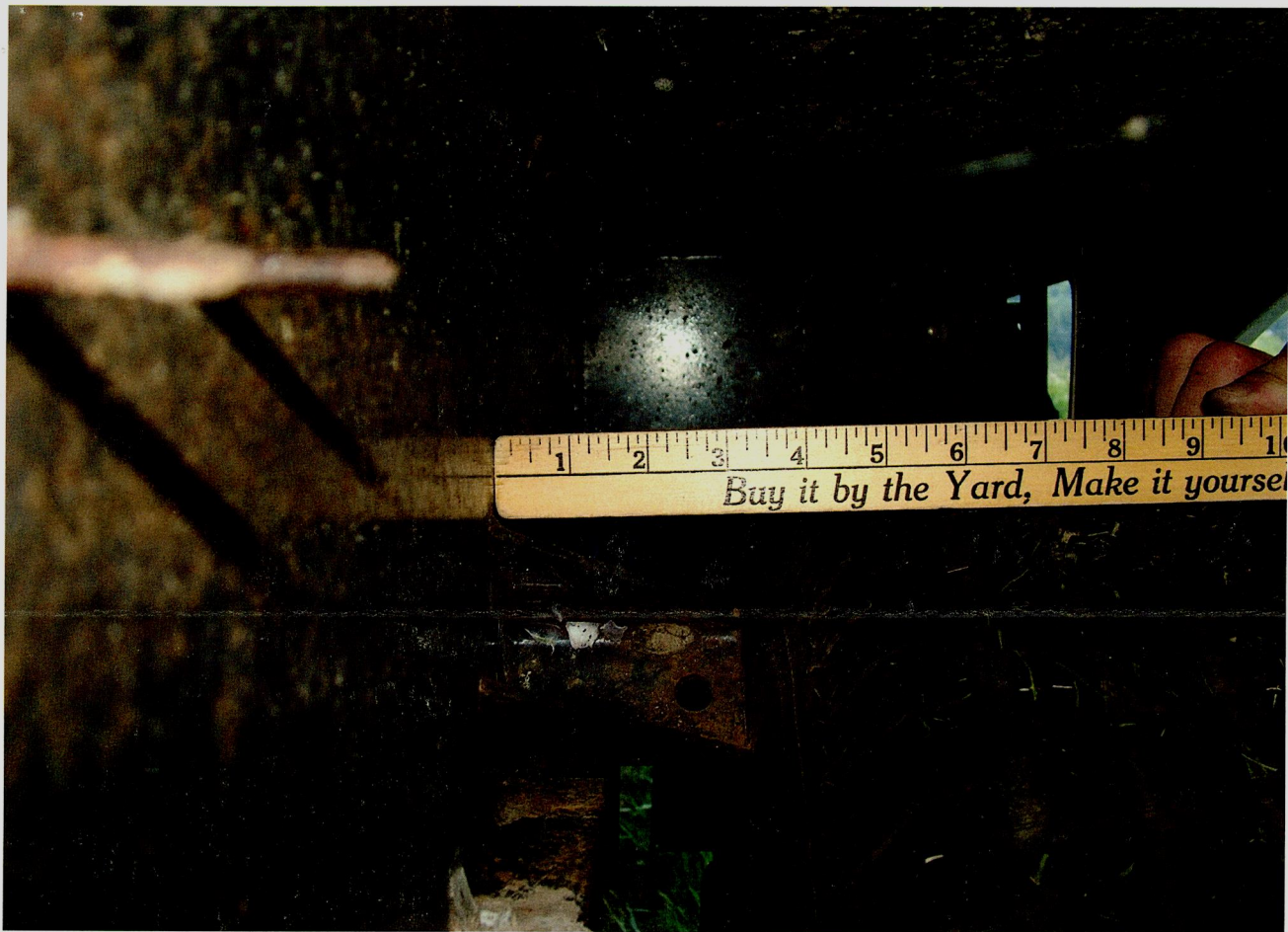
Note: attached pictures

Note: per the Garage these are the original tires



Bracket

Time Side wall



Frame



Bracket



Removal
of bracket



Area
worn
by
Bracket

Replaced Tire



Tire wear

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).