



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

16-JAN-2008

Reference No.

10215105

2008 FEB 2 2 PM 1:11

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name, Address, City (PITTSBURGH), State (PA), Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? [X] YES [] NO

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number (1FMZU73E1...), Make (FORD), Model (EXPLORER), Model Year (2005), Date Purchased (28-JUN-05), Dealer's Name and Telephone Number, Engine (No: Cylinders 6), Fuel Type (Gas), Original Owner [X], Dealer's City, State, Zip Code, Transmission Type (AUTOMATIC), [X] Antilock Brakes, [X] Cruise Control, Powertrain (ALL WHEEL DRIVE), Vehicle Component Code (191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT), Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) (17-DEC-2007), Failure Mileage (29100), Failure Speed (70)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make (MICHELIN), Tire Model (Name or Number) (UNKNOWN CROSS TOURING), Tire Size (Example P215/65R15) (P235-70R-16), DOT No. (Example: DOTMAL9ABC036) (B37PDH8X2504), [X] Original Equipment, Failure Location (RT I-81 NORTH BOUND APPROX 5/10 MILE SOUTH OF EXIT 90), Tire Component Code (191000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT), Tire Failure Type (BLOW OUT)

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 [X] No, Fire [] Yes [X] No, Number of Persons Injured (0), Number of Deaths (0), 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 2005 FORD EXPLORER. THE VEHICLE HAS MICHELIN CROSS TOURING (NA), SIZE LT235/70/R16 TIRES. WHILE DRIVING APPROXIMATELY 70 MPH, THE PASSENGER SIDE FRONT TIRE BLEW OUT WITHOUT WARNING. THE CONTACT PULLED OFF THE ROAD AND NOTICED THAT THE ONLY THING HOLDING THE TIRE TO THE VEHICLE WAS THE TIRE MOUNT. PRIOR TO OPERATING THE VEHICLE, THE TIRE PRESSURE WAS NORMAL. THE DEALER STATED THAT THE TIRE TREAD BEGAN TO SEPARATE AND THE TREAD WAS 4 AND 5/30 SECONDS. THE CONTACT HAS PICTURES. THE CURRENT AND FAILURE MILEAGES WERE 29,100.

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 to 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.

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies)

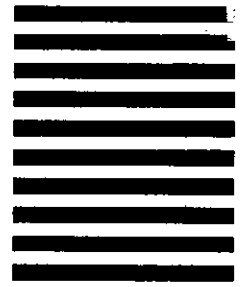
TIRE JUST BLEW WHILE TRAVELING BETWEEN 70 MPH & 75 MPH
SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION AND PHOTO'S OF TIRE

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20077-9382
Business Reply Mail
for Private Use \$300



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1888 WASHINGTON, DC

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**US Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NVS-210
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20077-9382**



**Think your vehicle
has a safety defect?**



**If so:
Use the enclosed
form to file a report.**

**or visit:
www.safercar.gov**

**or call:
Vehicle Safety Hotline
888-327-4236**



Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ)
U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[REDACTED]
Pittston, PA.
[REDACTED]

U.S. Dept of Transportation
Att: Ronald B. Fields, Chief Correspondence Research Division
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590
ODI Reference # - 10215105

January 27, 2008

Dear Sir,

I believe Michelin Tires are faulty and may be causing another Firestone type incident that occurred in 1998 due to faulty design. Enclosed, please find photographs of the Michelin Cross Terrain tire that blew out on my Ford Explorer {on the right front} on 17, December 2007, approx. ½ mile South of exit 90 on I81 in Lebanon County, PA.

I have personally, in my career as a Pennsylvania State Police Officer, investigated over 1900 automobile accidents, over 400 of which were fatal. I have never had a tire blow on me like this Michelin Cross Terrain tire. Enclosed you will find reports from a Michelin dealer who examined the tire, as well as copies of e-mails sent to my insurance company and photographs of damage to my vehicle that occurred due to the tire blow out. Also enclosed are the complaints about Michelin tires that I obtained from the internet. As there are over 16 pages of complaints about Michelin tires...you may be interested in looking into that.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Retired Trooper, PSP


Windows Live™

Att: [REDACTED] Claim # [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sun 1/20/08 1:45 PM

To: pa.auto.customer@statefarm.com

Attachments: DSCF1713.JPG (772.2 KB), DSCF1711.JPG (785.8 KB),
DSCF1710.JPG (744.5 KB), DSCF1714.JPG (759.9 KB),
DSCF1716.JPG (760.4 KB), DSCF1717.JPG (780.0 KB)Security scan upon download 

Diane-

As per our conversation on January 17th, attached are the photos as we had discussed. As you can see by photo #1 it was not a sidewall blowout, as you can see the bead still attached to the rim & further photos show where tread separation occurred. If you need any further information, please contact me at home.

Helping your favorite cause is as easy as instant messaging. You IM, we give. [Learn more.](#)

IN (08/29/07)

I have had three SUV's that I installed Michelin Cross Terrain tires on, two of them replacing XWS & LTX/MS tires that i drive for 60,000 miles per set. The first two CT's were mounted 15 & 16 inch wheels with no incidents, leaks or blowouts. The third vehicle has 265-75-R17 tires and I had my first blowout with a Michelin. I have used Michelin tires since 1971 on many makes of cars without a blowout. I am very concerned that just as with the Firestone/Explorer problems, that there may be a problem with specific sizes of the same series of tires. Does anyone agree? I will visit my dealer tomorrow to have them examine the failed tire and see what they and Michelin will do for me.

NO damage except having to wait for AAA which was on the spot within 15 minutes. Things happen and such is life!

CA (07/29/07)

Today My Mother and My Stepfather were driving to Laughlin up the 15. Weather was good, road conditions good. My Mom was driving and made an attempt to pass a slow moving Semi Truck. She checked Her speed at approx. 65m.p.h. When She lost control of Her Land Rover due to a premature blowout on Michelin Tires they just purchased this Year at Costco.

The Rover swerved out of control and smashed into the side of the Semi becoming trapped and dragged underneath the Trailer being crushed by the Semi Trucks Duals. It took two hours to get My stepfather extricated out of the rover and due to the loss of blood to His arms Doctors were just able to save the Right arm.

My Mother, 75yrs old. Suffered contusions and abrasions to Her Face and arms and as of tonite they are still removing the glass from Her body. She has severe bruising from where the windshield smashed into her Chest.

I have been scouring the web and have found NUMEROUS complaints and Product Recalls about Michelin Tires. This very well could have been a double fatality.

CA (4/11/04):

We are very concerned about a set of Michelin Cross Terrain tires purchased in Bakersfield, Ca., at 4-Day Tires. We purchased them in December 2003. The Cross Terrain size is P255 60 R17 105S M&S, TPC Spec 1168. Yesterday, coming back from Bakersfield, the left right-tire sidewall blew out with gashes from the tread down to the edge of the rim. The tire had about 5000 miles, inflated to 30-lbs per Mercedes Benz. The car is a 2002 MB ML320.

Doing an internet search, my wife finds other problems with the Michelin tires in the sidewall areas. I have road hazard coverage on all 4 tires and will go to Bakersfield to "hopefully" exchange the tire. I was driving about 45 mph when the tire blew sounding like a jet engine above the car. I pulled immediately off the road which was lightly driven, called AAA and we were on our way in about 3/4 of an hour.

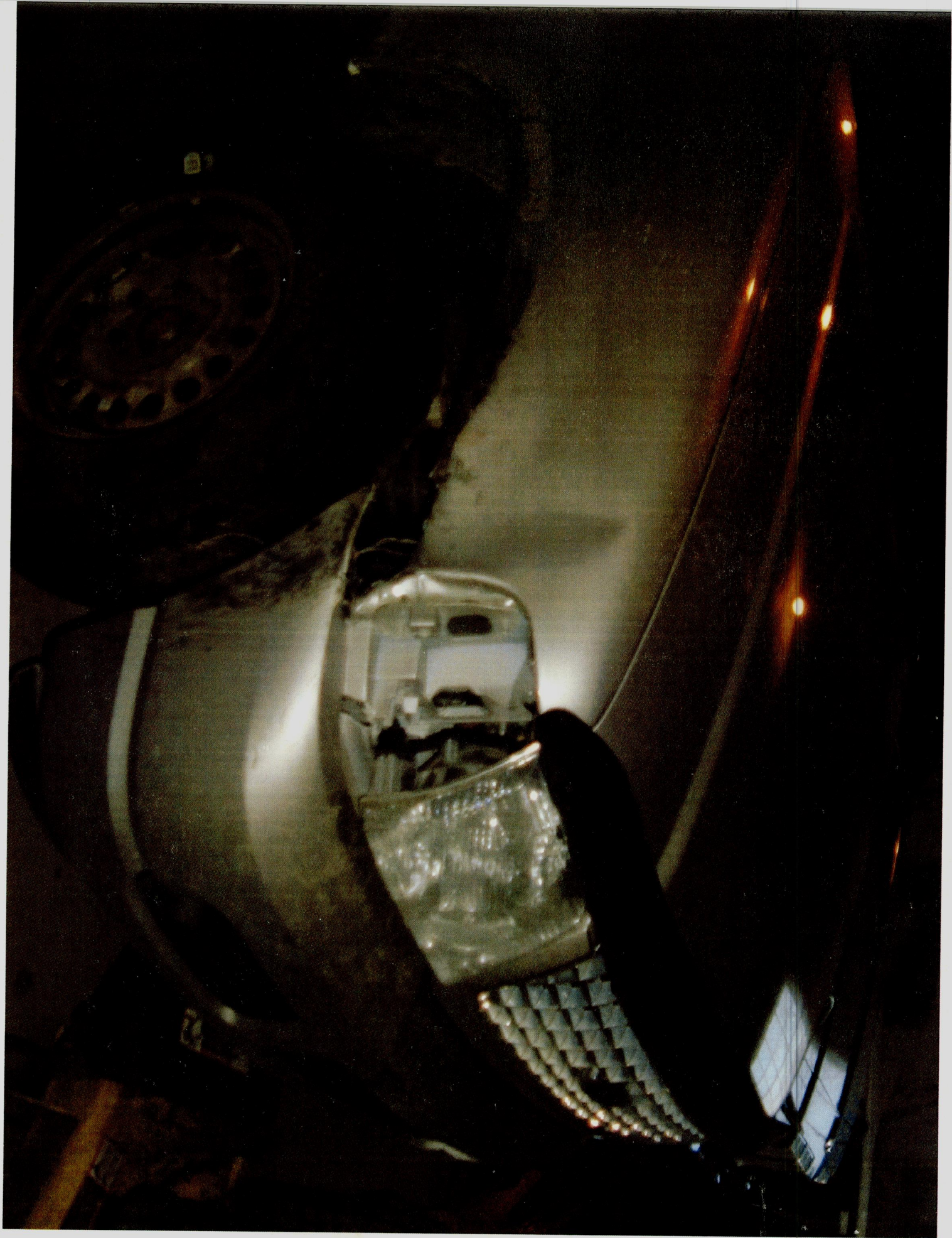
We were very lucky that we were not on the freeway and had just left the freeway driving at 70+ speeds. Now, I do not trust the tires. Again reading the inputs to ConsumerAffairs.com, specifically that of Ravi of San Jose CA (10/26/03) who purchased a set of 4 Michelin, one of the 4 tires literally split in two which is what happened to this tire. How do I get confidence back with these tires?













**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).**