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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4408

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January 16, 2008

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
Department of Transportation / Office of General Counsel
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Enclosed are letters sent to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission). The Commission cannot process the enclosed request or letters. The products or matters that are the subject of the correspondence does not fall within our jurisdiction. As a result we do not maintain any records responsive to the request and cannot respond to the concerns of the correspondent(s).

We are forwarding the requests or letters for whatever action your agency deems appropriate. We have notified the correspondent(s) about the referrals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,


Alberta E. Mills

Enclosures

ET
01/28/08
KB

December 20, 2007

CPSC/OFC OF THE SECRETARY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

2007 DEC 28 P 2: 25

ref to NHTSA

[REDACTED]
Miami, FL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attn: USCPSC
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

CC: Consumer Protection Division - Miami
CC: Ford Motor Company
CC: Michelin North America, Inc.

On November 29, 2007 at 11:50 a.m. I was driving south bound in Miami, FL on the 874 when the back passenger side tire of my Ford E150 2006 van exploded. Fortunately, I was able to gain control of the car and avoid any accidents despite the amount of traffic there was. After the incident, the first call I made was to Michelin, the manufacturer of the tires, and they told me to take the tire to the Tire Kingdom located at 13910 Miller Drive in Miami so they could inspect the tire and determine the reason for the explosion. The manager, Mr. Leynier Padilla, briefly glanced at the tire and offered to sell me another tire for \$113.27, including a \$58.40 credit he would give me for the warranty. I then asked the manager, Mr. Padilla, to look at it carefully and see if it was a manufacturer defect because I was certain I did not run over anything on the road that would cause the tire to explode in such a manner. I also explained to him that if another tire from my car were to explode like the way this one did in the future, it could cause a serious accident. He told me there was nothing else he could do without Michelin's authorization. Since Michelin was the one who told me to go to the Tire Kingdom, I would be getting the run-around.

I then called Ford since the tires on the car are the original tires the van came with. They told me to bring the tire into the closest Ford dealer, which was Midway Ford located at 8155 West Flagler Street in Miami, FL. At Ford, I spoke with service manager Mr. Oscar Madrigal. He looked at the tire briefly and said that I needed to resolve any problems with the manufacturer of the tires.

The only thing I feel I have left to do now is wait for someone to explain to me what kind of protection I have on such an important product like the tires of my car that at any time can cause an accident because of a manufacturer defect that neither of the employees I met with were prepared to properly analyze. If this would have happened to one of the front tires, this situation could have been a tragic one. Because of this, I am reluctant to drive my car as it has these tires that I believe to be defective. If an explosion like the one that happened on November 29 happens again on one of the front tires and during a peak traffic period, I could potentially be involved in a serious accident. In the mean time, I am driving without a spare tire or rim (which was also damaged).

I ask that you take the time to analyze this situation and seriously consider the reason why the tire exploded in such a way (photos available). As I mentioned, I am afraid of driving my car without confirming the reason why this happened to my tire.

I appreciate your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

