



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 18, 2008

[REDACTED]
Minnesota City, MN [REDACTED]

NVS-216 aae
Ref. # 10236054

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 7, 2008 and received on July 22, 2008. We are sorry to hear about the loss of your father, [REDACTED] and on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) I express our deepest sympathies to the [REDACTED] family.

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. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

In your letter to Ford Motor Company (Ford) dated November 29, 2007, you ask why a recall notification letter was not sent prior to the July 2003 fire in your father's model year (MY) 1995 Lincoln Town Car. Although we cannot speak on behalf of Ford, please consider the following information. Ford initiated the original recall, 99V-124, after a sharp increase in underhood fires in certain MY 1992 through early-1993 Town Car, Crown Victoria, and Grand Marquis vehicles where the incident mileage for the majority of vehicles ranged from 60 to 100 thousand miles and the time-in-service ranged from 4 to 6 years (see NHTSA investigation EA99-006). In a subsequent investigation (EA02-025), the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) analyzed fire complaints in vehicle populations beyond the scope of the original recall, including your father's vehicle that used a similar SCDS. At the time the investigation closed, ODI determined the rate of fires in this later population of vehicles was significantly lower than in the recalled population despite greater exposure in both mileage and years in service. In short, the defect trend may not have been clearly evident at the time of the fire in your father's vehicle. We are sorry we cannot assist you further in this matter.



Sincerely,

Frank S. Borris II

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure