



U.S. Department
of Transportation

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
2008 NOV -7 PM 4:38
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

22-OCT-2008

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10246344

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

EMORY

State

TX

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

SAME

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☐ YES ☒ NO
In the absence of an authorized address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner _____ Date 10/30/08

VEHICLE INFORMATION

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

5N1BV28U44

Make

NISSAN

Model

QUEST

Model Year

2004

Date Purchased

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

NISSAN OF GREENVILLE

Engine:

No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner

☒

Dealer's City

GREENVILLE

State

TX

Zip Code

6

GAS

Transmission Type

☒ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

Multiple Failure:

Incident Date(s)

21-DEC-2007

☒ Cruise Control

AUTO

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Vehicle Component Code: 061000 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING: ENGINE

Failure Mileage

60000

Failure Speed

0

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

0

Number of Deaths

0

Reported to Police

Y

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 NISSAN QUEST. WHILE THE VEHICLE WAS PARKED FOR 45 MINUTES, IT SPONTANEOUSLY CAUGHT FIRE AND WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. AN INVESTIGATOR INSPECTED THE VEHICLE AND CONCLUDED THAT THE FIRE ORIGINATED IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT DUE TO A FAILURE OF THE POWER DISTRIBUTION BOX. THE CONTACT HAS A COPY OF THE POLICE REPORT AND PICTURES OF THE INCIDENT. THE MANUFACTURER DENIED ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FAILURE. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 60,000.

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.

DENNIS INVESTIGATIONS

**1617 Golden Road
Tyler, Texas 75701
(903) 592-6900**

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT DATE: Tuesday, January 01, 2008

REPORT RECIPIENT: Farmers Insurance Group
317 N. Spur 63
Longview, TX 75601

REPORT RECIPIENT: Ben Shelton

INSURED:

Friday, December 21, 2007

TIME: 6:30 PM

DATE OF LOSS:

LOSS LOCATION:

Emory, Texas

CLAIM NUMBER

POLICY NUMBER

DIS FILE NUMBER:

PREPARED BY

Sherman Klepfer
Fire Investigator

DENNIS INVESTIGATIONS
NARRATIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

File # _____ Investigator : Sherman D. Klepfer Date of Report: Jan. 1, 2008

Initial Report

INSURED: _____

ORIGIN AND CAUSE SUMMARY

1. Following the examination of burn patterns and vector analyses within this scene, and based on the information currently available, it is my opinion this fire originated on the passenger side of the engine compartment.
2. From the origin area, the fire traveled throughout the engine compartment and into the passenger compartment of the vehicle, causing complete destruction.
3. The ignition source for this fire was the power distribution box.
4. The first material ignited was the available plastics and combustible materials commonly found in the engine compartment of a vehicle.
5. Based on the information currently available, it is my opinion that this fire started on the passenger side of the engine compartment and was caused by a failure of the power distribution box. There is no evidence that this fire was intentionally set. This fire will be listed as **ACCIDENTAL** in nature.

INSURED/RISK

6. The insured is identified as _____
7. The risk was a 2004 Nissan Quest van bearing Texas license plate number _____ with VIN 5N1BV28U44N _____

OUTBUILDINGS/EXPOSURES

8. There were three (3) different structures that were damaged or destroyed by the fire. The 20' X 21' carport, where the vehicle was parked, was completely destroyed along with a 10' X 20' office.
9. An 8'X 16' storage building received minor damage.
10. A Coleman camper received minor melting damage to the canvas.
11. All structures and camper are insured by Germania Insurance Company.

FIRE SCENE EXAMINATION

12. On Thursday, December 27, 2007, an origin and cause investigation commenced at approximately 11:30 AM and concluded on the same date. During that time extensive photographs were taken.

ASSIGNMENT:

Received from: This assignment was received from Mr. Ben Shelton with Farmers Insurance Group.

Instructions: The instructions were to conduct an origin and cause investigation of a 1994 Nissan Quest.

Date Received: Wednesday, December 26, 2007 Time :

Date Commenced: Thursday, December 27, 2007 Time: 11:30 AM

Completed on: Thursday, December 27, 2007

Verbal report on: A verbal report was given to Mr. Ben Shelton.

Verbal report to: 12/28/2007 8:40:00 AM

SCENE EXAMINATION:

☒ Safety Survey

Hazards: No hazards detected.

☒ Individual(s) Present

Who: The insured's, _____

☒ Previous Alterations

Alterations Made: None

☒ Special Equipment Required

Equipment Required: None

Access Authority Granted: Access was granted from the insured, _____

☒ Photos Taken ☐ Field Diagram Prepared

WEATHER INFORMATION:

Temperature: 68 degrees Wind Speed: Calm mph

Humidity: 59 % Wind Direction: N/A

Conditions: Clear skies

VEHICLE INFORMATION:

Type of Vehicle: Passenger or road vehicles, other

VIN: 5N1BV28U44N _____ LP #: _____ TX

Make: Nissan Year: 2004

Model: Quest

Color: _____

☐ Occupied ☐ Operational ☐ Stolen ☐ Abandoned ☒ Secured ☐ Burned - Exposure

Fire Origin: Passenger side of engine compartment.

DENNIS INVESTIGATIONS
NARRATIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

File # _____ Investigator : Sherman D. Klepfer Date of Report: Jan. 1, 2008
Initial Report
INSURED: _____

EXAMINATION OF VEHICLE EXTERIOR

13. An exterior examination of the vehicle began on the back side, systematically working clockwise 360 degrees around the structure. Examination of the vehicle showed that it was completely destroyed by the fire.
14. All tires on the vehicle were examined and all were completely consumed by the fire, with no one tire receiving more or less damage.
15. Examination of the hood showed heavy oxidation over the entire hood area. Heavier oxidation on the hood was noted in the areas where a large amount of combustibles and plastics were located within the engine compartment area.

EXAMINATION OF PASSENGER COMPARTMENT

16. Examination of the passenger compartment showed the fire traveled from the engine compartment into the passenger compartment through the holes located in the firewall, and also through windows after they were breached by the fire.

AREA OF ORIGIN

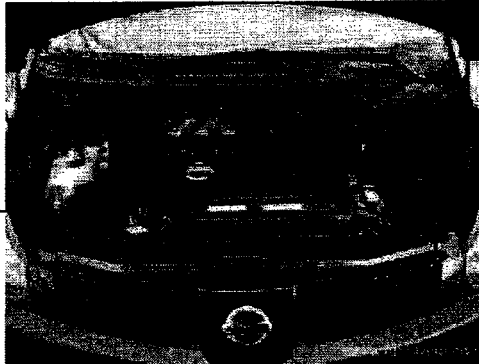
17. Examination of this fire scene, along with interviews of the discovering party, revealed that this fire originated in the engine compartment of the vehicle.
18. Examination of the engine compartment showed very heavy damage throughout the entire area. The battery was located on the driver's side of the engine compartment and examined along with the wiring connected to the battery. No arcing or beading was located on any of the wires that attached to the battery.
19. I tracked the wire leading from the battery to the starter and it showed to be securely connected with no arcing or beading detected.
20. I then tracked one wire from the battery, across the top of the engine, to the alternator. This wire also showed no signs of arcing or beading.
21. I then checked the firewall behind the engine and noted a heavier area of oxidation on the passenger side of the engine compartment when compared to the driver's side.
22. I determined that the fire originated on the passenger side of the engine compartment. An examination of that area showed heavy fire damage and melting of the engine block on this side of the vehicle.
23. The power distribution box was located on this side of the vehicle and is positioned on its side to the right of what appeared to be the windshield washer fluid reservoir and radiator reservoir.

DENNIS INVESTIGATIONS
NARRATIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

File # _____ Investigator : Sherman D. Klepfer Date of Report: Jan. 1, 2008

Initial Report

INSURED: _____



Power Distribution Box

Exemplar photograph of engine

24. Examination of the carport showed heavier fire damage to the beams and ceilings joists on the passenger side of the vehicle when compared to the driver's side.
25. When I interviewed the insured, he advised that it took approximately twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) minutes for the Emory Volunteer Fire Department to arrive on scene. This time allowed for the fire to travel to an adjacent office and storage building.
26. It is my professional opinion that this fire started from a failure in the power distribution box. Once the failure occurred, the fuel for the fire consisted of the common plastics and combustible materials commonly found in the engine compartment.

EVIDENCE

27. As of this report, no evidence or samples have been taken in the investigation.

COMMENTS

28. In this investigation, I determined that the fire was caused by a failure in the power distribution box. I recommend that this file be transferred to your subrogation department for further review.

CASE STATUS

End of initial report. This case will be **CLOSED**.

DENNIS INVESTIGATIONS
NARRATIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

File # _____ Investigator : Sherman D. Klepfer Date of Report: Jan. 1, 2008

Initial Report

INSURED: _____

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherman D. Klepfer". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Sherman D. Klepfer
Fire Investigator
Mt. Pleasant, TX
(903) 466-7540



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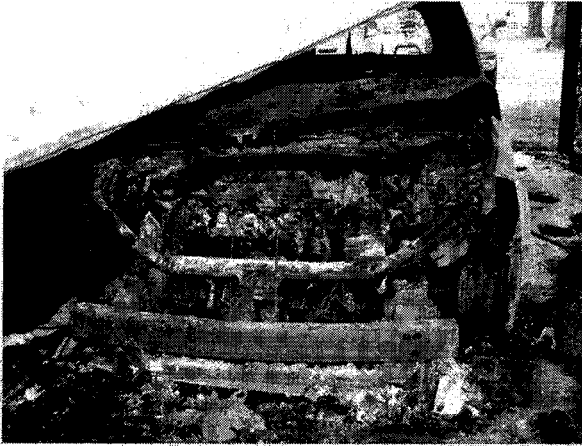
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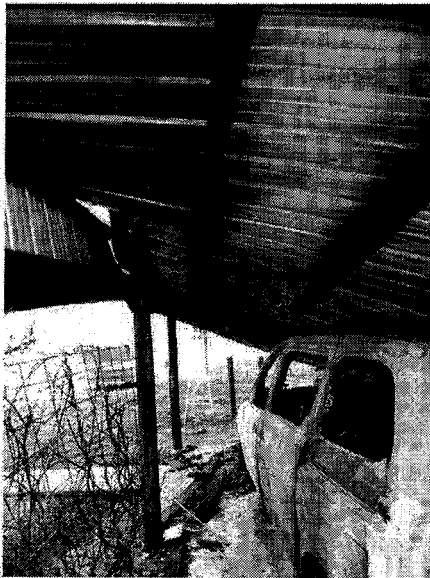
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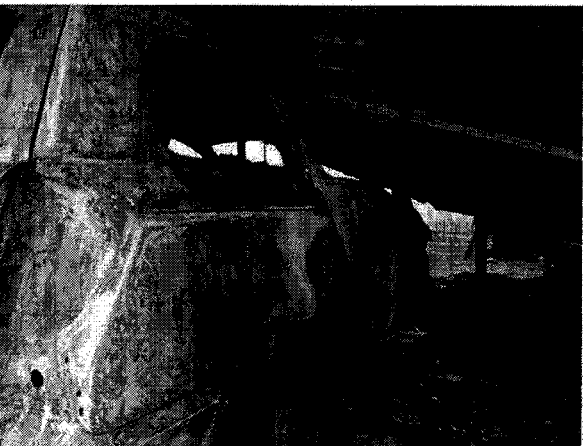
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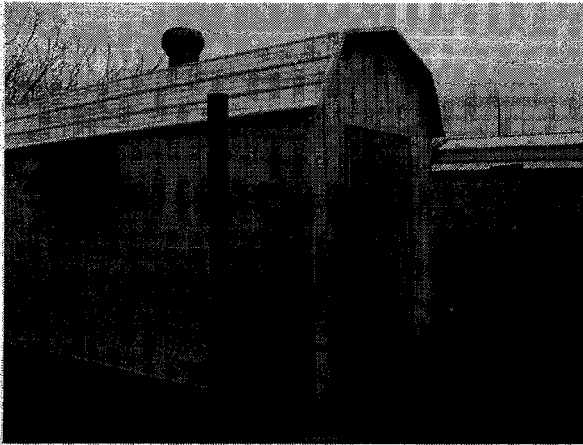
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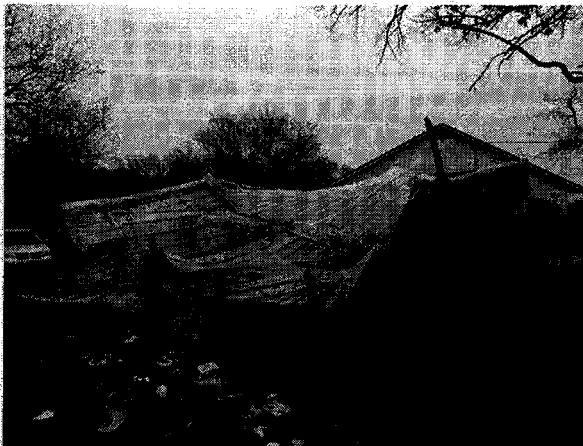
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PUBLICDATA.com

◆Texas DMV Detail

Owner Name	Current Plate	Current Registration Expires	Owner Address
Previous Plate	Previous Registration Expired /	Owner City/State/ZIP Code	VIN
Document Number	Title Issue Date	Title Process Code	Title Bind Code
Document Type Code	Vehicle Body Type	Vehicle Class Code	Vehicle Model Year
Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model	Vehicle Ton	Registration Sticker Number
Registration Transaction Code	Registration County Code	Registration County Name	Registration Effective Date
Previous Owner Name	Vehicle Body VIN	Vehicle Length	Previous owner city/state
Vehicle Odometer Brnd	Vehicle Odometer Reading	Vehicle Title Address	Vehicle Sales Price
Vehicle Sold Date	Vehicle Title City/State/ZIP Code	Vehicle Empty Weight	Vehicle Gross Weight
Owner Country	Privacy Option	Number of Liens	Last Update
Lien 1 Holder	Lien 1 Date	Lien 2 Holder	Lien 2 Date
Lien 3 Holder	Lien 3 Date		
Above information as provided by state - below are our annotations			
Click here Find other vehicles at this address			
Click here Find other vehicles in this area			

Lien Holder 1

Lien Holder Number	Lien Code	Lien Holder Name 1	Lien Holder Name 2
Lien Holder Address 1	Lien Holder Address 2	Lien Holder City, State Zip	