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Emerg. SD

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2008 DEC 29 AM 9:41

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TRAFFIC

NHTSA Headquarters  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a fire hazard in some models of Monaco Motorhomes.

I had a fire in a 2002 Monaco Signature. It was confined to the forward run-bay compartment adjacent to a 35 gallon propane tank. I did observe and extinguish the fire before it migrated into the propane compartment. My amateur analysis concluded this situation was due to a faulty design of the external lighting circuitry. All of the current needed to power the external lights run through the "Smart Wheel" controller located in the forward run-bay. This controller is designed to handle the current load of the external lights on the motorhome but not the additional load of a tow vehicle. Monaco installs tow packages on most of it's models.

I just ask that you investigate this situation and prevent someone from a possible serious disaster.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

ET  
12/29/08  
KOB  
9:47