

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hershman, Larry \(NHTSA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Your Ford F-150 Complaint
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011 6:54:36 PM

Hello Larry, Here is what i saw:

The strap furthest to the front was the only to break and caused the forward part of the tank to drag. The break appeared to be in the center of the strap on the BOTTOM facing the road, the entire metal part of the strap was extremely corroded and I could break it off and crumble it with my fingers. The rear

strap was in similar condition but seems to have added support from the fill nozzle and cap assembly directly above it which creates another attachment the body.

FYI----- a similar incident occured appx 2 years before with spare tire.
the lowering cable was especially corroded and broke while the vehicle was moving,
dropping the tire on to the road behind me as I was going about 30 mph.

I hope this is helpful.

Subject: Your Ford F-150 Complaint
Date: Thu, 12 May 2011 17:17:46 -0400
From: Larry.Hershman@dot.gov
To: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Larry Hershman and I work for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. I am investigating alleged problems with Ford F-150 pick-up trucks involving fuel tank strap failure. In your complaint to us about the problem that occurred on your F-150, you described similar symptoms. I'd like to ask you for some follow up information:

Did one or both fuel tank straps break?

Did it/they break in the middle or where they attach to the frame?

Please describe the condition of the fuel tank support strap(s). Aside from the break, did the straps appear to be in good shape? If not, how would you describe their condition (mostly shiny, mostly rusty, severe corrosion, etc.)?

Our investigation continues, and we are very appreciative of receiving your complaint and any additional information you provide us.

Sincerely,

Larry Hershman
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Office of Vehicle Safety - Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590
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