

NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip



Printed: 5/12/2011

NHTSA #: **ES11-003320**

XREF #:

Delivery: MESSENGER ENV.

Rec'd Date: 5/12/2011

Doc Type: S10

Address To:

Referred By: NPO-011

Doc Date: 5/9/2011

Due Date:

S10 #: S10-110510-004

DOT/I #:

RMP #:

Subject: S10 APPROPRIATE HANDLING - EMAIL FROM [REDACTED] RE GAS TANKS FALLING FROM MOVING VEHICLES

Ack Date:

Sign Office: ENFORCEMENT

Cleared Date:

File Loc:

Added By: TMAPP x62870

Ack By:

Signature: AS APPROPRIATE

Cleared By:

XREF File:

Modified By: TAMMY.MAPP

Signed For:

Cleared For:

Closed Date: 5/12/2011

Most Recent Comment:

Author:

[REDACTED]

CL-10401688-4117

Tel: Fax: E-mail: [REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2011 MAY 12 P 4:03
RECEIVED-NHTSA

Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	APPROPRIATE	5/12/2011		5/12/2011
NVS-010	INFORMATION	5/12/2011		5/12/2011

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05/13/2011
KB



Office of the Secretary of Transportation Executive Secretariat

Control number: S10-110510-004 **Action office:** NHTSA
Document date: 5/9/2011 **Due date:**
Author(s): [REDACTED]
Subject: Complaints Regarding Fuel Tanks Falling Off of Moving Vehicles
Action: Appropriate Handling

Comments:

Date	Action	Action by
5/11/2011	Folder Acknowledged for Appropriate Handling.	TMCKINNEY
5/10/2011	Folder Processed for Appropriate Handling.	AINGRAM
5/10/2011	DIST: C1,S3	AINGRAM
5/10/2011	Updated Folder Information.	AINGRAM
5/10/2011	Work Folder Assigned to NHTSA.	MPETTIFORD
5/10/2011	Incoming File Uploaded.	MPETTIFORD
5/10/2011	Control Number Created.	MPETTIFORD

Date	Note	Note by
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NHTSA

S10-110510-004

CONTROL NO.

Pettiford, Marie (OST)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 2:17 PM
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; LaHood, Ray (OST); schapman@tribune.com; Hershman, Larry (NHTSA)
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12

I just heard on WJR that Ford is cooperating with a government investigation into the fuel tanks falling out of F150's. After the Toyota fiasco we have reason to question the ineptitude and corruption under Ray LaHood. NOW it has taken 8 months to decide that gas tanks falling out of moving vehicles "might" be a safety concern for consumers.

I hope the Energy and Commerce Committee investigates NHTSA. When they do, I have 1 more issue that NHTSA, under Ray LaHood's leadership, decided not to investigate a known defect because it had only resulted in 64 dead bodies up to December 31, 2006. I take that one more personally that the F150, because when I refused to hide the defect, I was singled out to be slandered, assaulted and terminated for not helping my management hide the defect from NHTSA.

My management ([REDACTED]) sent the HR Goon squad ([REDACTED]) in to intimidate me into complying with orders to hide the defect. When I refused, I was financially destroyed. In my estimation, this is racketeering by members of Ford's program level management. I do not, and never have believed that Senior Management is part of this, but they can't watch everything all of the time.

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; ray.lahood@dot.gov; schapman@tribune.com; larry.hershman@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 15:57:02 -0400

I recommend calling Larry Hershamn at 202-366-4929 since he is the NHTSA employee who, after 8 long months, is still incapable of determining if I am risking my life by not fixing my truck.

Tax dollars at work.

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; ray.lahood@dot.gov; schapman@tribune.com
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 15:51:42 -0400

NHTSA is closed tomorrow because it is Saturday.

If you can't get anything done, I will allow NHTSA and Fred Upton's energy and commerce committee to kill me off.

From: Stephanie.Bogema@mail.house.gov
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 6 May 2011 15:26:14 -0400
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12

[REDACTED]

ES11-003320

I'm sorry it has taken me a little while to get in touch with you. Please do not call our office. I don't know why my voicemail hasn't been working. I will look into that, but continue to send me email. Calling the office will not get you any faster of a response from me. I will call NHTSA tomorrow and see if I can find anything out. If, however, I am not able to get more information from them about this, I'm afraid there's not much more I can do. I will do the best I can.

Please be patient and I will email you again soon.
Stephanie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 1:55 PM
To: Bogema, Stephanie; Ray LaHood; David Strickland DOT; Robbins, Michael
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12

I talked to a NHTSA employee who said that I should not drive my truck because "We know this is a safety risk" but that NHTSA has been "so chaotic for the past year" that they are unable to do anything about it.

Perhaps the Energy and Commerce Committee needs to ask David Strickland and Ray LaHood why NHTSA is "so chaotic" that they have to deliberately allow 1.4 million consumers to drive vehicles with a known safety risk, such as gas tanks falling out at highway speeds.

This employee said "I am not going to lie to you, I know who you are." I take this to mean that I am being trashed by NHTSA personnel because I expect them to fulfill their responsibility to the public. It's a shame this is considered to be such a radical position. It is also a shame that NHTSA is, by virtue of inactivity, endorsing acts of extortion against employees who refuse to violate federal criminal statutes and that Congress is content with this "Chaotic" state of NHTSA.

I guess we learned nothing from the Toyota hearings last year!!!

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; ray.lahood@dot.gov; david.strickland@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Fri, 29 Apr 2011 13:28:11 -0400

Any news?????

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; ray.lahood@dot.gov; david.strickland@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Tue, 26 Apr 2011 17:30:04 -0400

Also,
I checked the website out that "S Morgan" claimed had more information. Here is the link to the "investigation" NHTSA claims to be running. <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/acms/documentList.do?docId=PE10036&docType=INV&fromPublic=true>

No documents have been posted since 11/8/2010, and the most recent posting by NHTSA was on 9/24/2010.

When you consider no sign of progress in nearly 8 months on NHTSA's part, and the fact that it took 15 weeks to correct the glaring omission on the website, I have to wonder what the purpose is. Are these people simply inept, or are they corrupt to the point that they will allow violations of Federal Criminal law at the expense of human fatalities?

Either way, MR. Upton needs to hold some hearings, because clearly Mr. LaHood and Mr. Strickland have been remiss in their duty to the public.

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; ray.lahood@dot.gov; david.strickland@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2011 18:47:09 -0400

I followed the advice below, and as I suspected, the "Hotline" has no idea what is going on with this. It is clear that either by design or through negligence, "S Morgan" lied to you.

Looks like Air Traffic Controllers are not the only DOT employees asleep at the switch.

From: [REDACTED]
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov
Subject: RE: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12
Date: Wed, 20 Apr 2011 16:05:18 -0400

I will wait to repair my vehicle until NHTSA does something. If I die, they will have an answer, and so will the E&C Committee.

From: Stephanie.Bogema@mail.house.gov
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 20 Apr 2011 15:51:57 -0400
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12

This is the response I received from NHTSA. I will obviously still need to find out more information.

From: NHTSAHotline@telesishq.com [mailto:NHTSAHotline@telesishq.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 5:22 PM
To: Bogema, Stephanie
Subject: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation ISSUE=342736 PROJ=12

When replying, type your text above this line.

Notification of Case Change (All times are GMT-0400)

Project: NHTSA Hotline Center
Case: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation
Case Number: 342736

Date: 04/11/2011 **Time:** 17:22:14
Creation Date: 04/11/2011 **Creation Time:** 09:36:38

Description:

Entered on 04/11/2011 at 17:22:14 EDT (GMT-0400) by S Morgan:

Thank you for contacting the U.S. Department of Transportation's Vehicle Safety Hotline Information Center.

You may call our Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 and a Customer Service Representative will be happy to assist you.

You may also visit our web site at www.safercar.gov for information pertaining to Recalls and Defects. The site will provide you with the following resource information:

- Compliance Testing Database
- How To File a Complaint
- Early Warning Reporting Assistance

- Questions and Answers on Recalls and Defects
- View Existing Defect Investigations
- Monthly Defect Investigation Reports
- Search Technical Service Bulletins

We hope that you find this information helpful. However, if you need additional information on our services please feel free to contact us at 1-888-327-4236.

Thank you,

NHTSA.dot.gov Response Team

Disclaimer: "This response is for information purposes only and does not constitute an official communication of the U.S. Department of Transportation. For an official response, please write U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, West Building, Washington, DC 20590.

Entered on 04/11/2011 at 09:36:37 EDT (GMT-0400) by nhtsa.webmaster@dot.gov:

Sender Name: Stephanie Bogema Sender Email: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov Subject: Concerns regarding NHTSA investigation Comments: Good Afternoon, I am a congressional staffer and have been contacted several times by a Michigan resident named [REDACTED] who is extremely concerned about an NHTSA investigation regarding gas tanks falling from moving vehicles (<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/acms/docServlet/Artemis/Public/Pursuits/2010/PE/INOA-PE10036-5786.PDF>.) If someone could get back to me about the status of this investigation and what will be done by NHTSA in the future, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you. Stephanie Bogema

Contact Information:

NHTSA ID:284737

Pettiford, Marie (OST)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 3:54 PM
To: stephanie.bogema@mail.house.gov; LaHood, Ray (OST); schapman@tribune.com
Cc: Morgan, Tina (NHTSA); Smith, Daniel (NHTSA); Magno, Gregory (NHTSA)
Subject: NHTSA Reply

The attached file explains that 64 dead bodies and 355 additional severe injuries can be summarily dismissed by NHTSA. In the Toyota hearings, Joan Claibroke stated that "failure to protect occupants" constitutes a defect according to the courts. I guess Ray LaHood's people have decided they know better.

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Subject: NHTSA Reply
Date: Fri, 15 Jan 2010 16:38:26 -0500
From: Gregory.Magno@dot.gov
To: [REDACTED]
CC: Tina.Morgan@dot.gov; Daniel.Smith@dot.gov

[REDACTED]

After extensive analysis, we see no indication of a structurally-related safety defect trend involving side impact crashworthiness in the Ford Superduty that would trigger a safety defect investigation or justify a subpoena of Ford's 2005 crash test video by this office. As noted in our August 11, 2009 reply, NHTSA has acted to improve side impact safety standards for all light vehicles, including heavy pickup trucks and we will continue to monitor their performance in the field.

Please see the attachment for a more detailed discussion of our review and the basis of our conclusion.

Sincerely,

Gregory E. Magno

Chief, Defects Assessment Division
Office of Defects Investigation
US DOT / NHTSA

(202) 366-5226