

CI-1042528-8640

JUN = 5 2012

[REDACTED]
Poway, CA [REDACTED]

May 6, 2012

NHTSA Headquarters
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

Re: My Injury

I am 68 years old and have never had this happen before, but at my age new adventures in aging occur all the time. My trucks parking brake was apparently to tight for me the fateful day April 2, 2012 and my Dodge 3500 Diesel popped out of park, the door hit me and my truck ran over me. It broke both of my legs, I am traumatized (and I am not wimpy) and has caused me to lose at least part of how I make a living. I am a horse trainer or have at least been one for 45 years.

My first thoughts were the reason this happened perhaps was it may have been my fault. I must have gotten so I am not being able to push the parking brake down hard enough anymore. After researching the problem I learned that a vehicle popping out of park is not new or even infrequent and has caused many injuries.

So I have an idea. Why not make the industry move out of the dark ages in automatic transmissions and have them add a second neutral. As an example it would become Park-Neutral-Reverse-Neutral-Drive 2-Drive1 or whatever forward gears the vehicle has. I know they would have to re-tool but in the long run it is cheaper than the mass of law suits that have occurred due to this antiquated design. I am an ASE Certified mechanic so I understand the problems of re-tooling but looking at the vast number of people who have been injured and even killed by this design it seems reasonable at this time change might be in order.

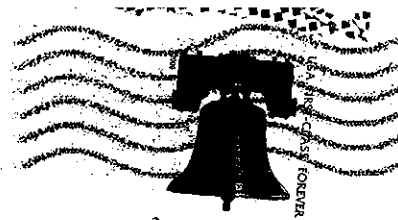
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U S Dept OF Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
OFFICE OF DEFECT INVESTIGATION
CNV5-210
NHTSA Headquarters
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

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