

PROGRESSIVE®

James Vondale
Director, Automotive Safety Office
Ford Motor Company.
330 Town Center Drive, Suite 400
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738

AUG - 8 2012

MAILED CERTIFIED & REGULAR MAIL

Re: Our Insured/Your Customer: [REDACTED]
Our Claim No. [REDACTED]
Model & Year 2012 Thor Hurricane Motor Coach
VIN 1F65F5DY4B0 [REDACTED]
DOL: June 29, 2012
Incident: Fire Loss

Dear Mr. Vondale:

Please be advised that Progressive Northern Insurance Company provided liability coverage and first party coverage for the above-named individual and for the above-identified motor vehicle manufactured by Thor Industries. It is our understanding that Ford Motor Company manufactured the engine and chassis for the above-identified vehicle. Please be further advised that on June 29, 2012, [REDACTED] was operating the above-identified vehicle on US Hwy 18 outside of Edgemont, SD, when a fire ignited in the unit near the engine compartment on the front passenger side. Even though the local fire authorities responded within 5 to 6 minutes, the unit was totally destroyed by the fire.

Furthermore, the fire was caused to spread to the adjacent grassland and forested areas. Before the fire was able to be totally contained, it consumed approximately 9,000 acres of grassland and forest. In addition, several ranchers may have lost their businesses or sustained property losses from the fire. To compound the tragedy, a National Guard C-130 tanker aircraft sent to assist in the firefighting efforts went down, resulting in the deaths of four airmen.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to place your company on notice of the potential claims that may not only be asserted by Progressive for recovery of the property damages and any claim for indemnification from your company, but also on notice of the potential claims of the other property owners and any other claims that may result from this fire. Progressive would assert the fire was caused by a defect in the manufacture of or design of your product, which was subsequently placed in the stream of commerce. Progressive has taken steps to preserve what remains of the vehicle, but all combustibles were consumed in the fire. Progressive has also received notice from at least two local ranchers that they have retained attorneys and engineering experts. They have expressed an interest to inspect the vehicle to determine the cause and origin of the fire.

MC
081012
TGW

It would be Progressive's preference that all inspections be coordinated and occur at the same time. Thus, the secondary purpose of this letter is also to discover whether Ford Motor Company has any intention to inspect the vehicle. If so, please have the appropriate individual contact me, so a coordinated schedule can be worked out by all concerned parties.

Finally, please be further advised that our insured, [REDACTED], is represented by counsel, and therefore, all contact with [REDACTED] should go through his attorney. The attorney is Jason A. Neville, 159 North Wolcott, Suite 400, Casper, WY 82601 and can be reached at 307-265-0700.

Should you or anyone else at your company require any further information or have any questions, you may feel free to call me. I look forward to working with your company to resolve these various claims that resulted from the fire, originating in your company's product.

Sincerely,

Lawrence D. Leeders

Lawrence D. Leeders
Casualty Specialist
P.O. Box 94621
Cleveland, OH 44101
440/603-6196
Fax: 440/603-6316
Lawrence_D_Leeders@Progressive.com

cc: Jason A. Neville, Esq.
Attorney at Law

Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

bcc: Ron Taylor
Nederveld
217 Grandville Ave. SW STE. 302
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Progressive
P.O. Box 94621
Cleveland, OH 44101
progressive.com
0221



Jason A. Neville, Esq.
Attorney at Law
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

PROGRESSIVE[®]
COMMERCIAL AUTO INSURANCE

