



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 26, 2013

Grand Junction, CO

NVS-216 am
Ref. No. 10533576

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2013 Forest River Sandstorm Toy Hauler RV. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You state a tire on your MY 2013 Forest River RV lost air and was in need of repair. However, while attempting to remove the tire you noticed that the lug nuts were extremely hot. The dealership thought there was a bearing problem and suggested you go to a local axle shop for repairs. The axle shop determined that the hub was improperly forced onto the axle's spindle. You contacted Forest River for assistance, but they told you the problem was the responsibility of their axle supplier, Lippert Components. You contacted Lippert and on July 15, they sent the local axle shop components to repair the axle on your RV. You feel the way these axles are produced poses a safety risk and want NHTSA to be aware of this problem.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to axle assembly problems in MY 2013 Forest River Sandstorm RV's. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. The NHTA investigation and recall process is our web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at our web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement