



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Office of Highway Safety

September 30, 2014

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

[REDACTED]
Fenton, MO [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

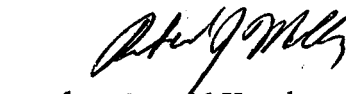
Thank you for your letter to the National Transportation Safety Board concerning the problems you experienced with your 2012 Ford Escape. To provide you some background, we are an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in the other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents we investigate and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We derive this authority from Title 49 of the *United States Code*, Chapter 11.

The regulation of motor vehicle safety equipment, the investigation of potential defects, and the oversight of vehicle recalls lie with another federal agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). As a courtesy, we have forwarded your letter to NHTSA. If you wish to contact NHTSA directly, you can write to the following address:

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

Thank you for your interest in transportation safety.

Sincerely,


for Donald Karol
Director

NAM
10714
SMD

August 12, 2014

National Transportation Safety Board

4760 Oakland Street Suite 500

Denver, Colorado 80239

Sirs,

I have and I guess having a problem with my vehicle and I hope you can help. It is a 2012 Ford Escape, VIN 1FMCU9DG2CK [REDACTED]

It accelerates on its own and is unable to stop. The first incident occurred in late August of 2013 in Lebanon, MO. I was traveling at about 15 mph behind another vehicle when it suddenly started to accelerate. With another vehicle coming in the opposite direction and lane and to avoid hitting the vehicle in front I swerved to the right jumping the curb, went around the vehicle in front of me and back onto the roadway. The vehicle continued to accelerate so I again jumped the curb into a large grassy field where the vehicle then slowed to normal and I continued to the parking lot of my destination, a Russell Stover Store. Someone notified the local police, Lebanon City Police, who responded and questioned me as well as conducting a field sobriety test which I passed. They then assisted me in getting the vehicle towed to a local repair shop where it was temporarily repaired. Two days later on my return home I took the vehicle to Lou Fusz Ford where I had purchased it for repairs. The cost was right at \$1000. Lou Fusz was unable to find anything wrong with the vehicle that would cause this acceleration. I contacted Ford Motor Company and advised of this incident and they advised that since the dealer could find nothing wrong they were sorry but took no action.

The second incident happened on May 15th of 2014. Again I was traveling at about 15 mph in a small subdivision in the south St. Louis area and the vehicle just suddenly accelerated. This time I struck a basketball stand and mailbox before the vehicle finally came to a stop on the front lawn of a home. Once again the police responded, St Louis County, and again I passed a field sobriety test. The vehicle was then towed to Loughborough Auto Body for repairs, which this time were in excess of \$10,000. I again contacted Ford Motor Company and they advised I again take it to the dealer for a check, which I did and again they were not able to find anything

wrong.

At this point I contacted an attorney who advised that unless I could find and become part of some type of class action suit I was pretty much out of luck.

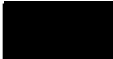
So that is why I am contacting you. I need help. Today vehicles are more computer than old fashion engine. To work on them you need be more of a computer geek than mechanic. And you know how computers and their systems are always "crashing" only to recover in a few minutes as if nothing happened. I do not feel this vehicle is safe to drive however I am stuck with it. If I trade it my case is closed and I am simply passing the problem onto someone else.

Please advise. I will be anxiously waiting to hear from you.

Thank you,



Fenton, MO



SAINI LOUIS MUSEE

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