

CL-11072629-6809

12/12/2017


Oak Harbor, WA 

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation (NVS-210)
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

FEB 13 2018

Sir/Ma'am,

I was given this address to inquire as to the investigation and or analysis of specific complaints filed with the NHTSA ODI.

My family recently experienced the tragic loss of our son (a husband and father) during a single car motor vehicle accident where he was driving a 2005 Ford Focus ZX5 S and I believe a contributor to the accident may have been excessive speed.

For this reason, I am researching the vehicle for defects that may have contributed to the excessive speed of my son's vehicle besides the obvious possibility of the driver's actions. After a very brief internet search, I found your safecar.gov website that provided me with 5 recent complaints about uncontrolled acceleration problems people have experienced in the 2005 Ford Focus on just the first 2 pages. These incidents occurred as early as 5/01/2016 and as late as 11/27/2017 and it appears that two of the incidents involve the same complainant.

My request here is to know if there has been any action, investigative or analytical with regards to any trend these complaints and or others on succeeding pages may have created or be a part of by the NHTSA ODI? If not, is there another agency who may have taken complaints such as these for investigation or resolution?

In the complaints listed below, I see there has been no related injury or death reported and my personal case is only suspicion without actual experience with the issues raised by the complainants, however; it is important for me to know if a mechanical or technical problem with my son's vehicle may have contributed to his tragic end.

The following pages include copied text from the 5 incidents I have mentioned above for your quick reference.

Any information or guidance you can provide regarding these complaints or other agencies where I might be able to find related information would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,


NAM
2-13-18
UD

1:

Date Complaint Filed: 12/10/2017

Date of Incident: 11/27/2017

Component(s): STRUCTURE

NHTSA ID Number: 11053738

Consumer Location: Unknown

Vehicle	Make	Model	Model Year(s)
FORD	FOCUS		2005

Crash:Yes

Fire:No

Number of Injuries:0

Number of Deaths:0

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN): 1FAFP34N35W...

SUMMARY:

ON THE 27TH OF NOV. 2017 WHILE PUTTING MY CAR INTO THE GARAGE THERE WAS A SUDDEN ACCELERATION, CRASHING INTO THE WALL PUSHING THE SHELVING INTO THE SPARE BEDROOM. I PUT IT INTO REVERSE AND EXITED THE GARAGE AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED, STILL TRYING TO BRAKE. HIT A TREE AT THE CURB PUT THE CAR INTO DRIVE INSTEAD OF NEUTRAL THEN HEADED BACK TOWARD THE HOUSE WHILE STILL TRYING TO BRAKE, WAS ABLE TO SWERVE MISSING THE HOUSE, TURNED OFF THE KEY AND WOUND UP IN MY NEIGHBORS BACKYARD.

2:

Date Complaint Filed: 11/06/2017

Date of Incident: 10/07/2016

Component(s): VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL

NHTSA ID Number: 11043738

Consumer Location: MABLETON, GA

Vehicle Make Model Model Year(s)

FORD FOCUS 2005

Crash:No

Fire:No

Number of Injuries:0

Number of Deaths:0

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN): 1FAFP36N55W...

SUMMARY:

I WAS DRIVING 35-40 MPH NEAR MIDWAY AIRPORT IN CHICAGO. I ATTEMPTED TO BREAK AND MY ACCELERATOR WAS STUCK. I HAD TO CONSTANTLY PRESS THE BREAK TO ATTEMPT TO BRING MY CAR TO A STOP ... BUT THE GAS PEDAL WAS STUCK IN AN ACCELERATION MODE. I ATTEMPTED TO TAP THE GAS PEDAL AND DEPRESS IT ... WHILE KEEPING MY FOOT ON THE BRAKE, BUT THE GAS PEDAL WAS STILL STUCK. I HAD TO TURN MY CAR OFF FOR JUST TO STOP THE ACCELERATION AND RESTART MY VEHICLE TO GET OUT OF THE SITUATION.

3:

Date Complaint Filed: 11/04/2017

Date of Incident: 11/04/2017

Component(s): SERVICE BRAKES , VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL

NHTSA ID Number: 11043347

Consumer Location: HOUSTON, TX

Vehicle Make Model Model Year(s)

FORD FOCUS 2005

Crash:No

Fire:No

Number of Injuries:0

Number of Deaths:0

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN): 3FAFP37N55R...

SUMMARY:

I APPROACHED A RED LIGHT, ON FARM TO MARKET ROAD 1960 (STATE HIGHWAY FM 1960) WHILE IN MOTION AND I PRESSED THE BRAKE. THE MOTOR REVVED UP AND WOULD NOT STOP. IT SEEMED LIKE THE GAS PEDAL WAS STUCK. I ASKED MY DAUGHTER TO REACH DOWN AND PULL THE GAS PEDAL UP. THIS DID NOT WORK THOUGH. THE LIGHT BY THE GRACE OF GOD TURNED GREEN. I CONTINUED DRIVING FORWARD WHILE HOLDING THE BRAKE ALL THE WAY DOWN ON THE FLOOR. I RELEASED THE BRAKE AND THE MOTOR ACCELERATED FASTER. I IMMEDIATELY STOMPED ON THE BRAKE AGAIN. I WAS ACCELERATING AT A FASTER SPEED. I QUICKLY LOOKED FOR A SAFE PLACE TO STOP SO I TURNED LEFT INTO A NEIGHBORHOOD AND GOT OUT OF HEAVY TRAFFIC. I THREW THE CAR IN NEUTRAL, IT REVVED UP OUT OF CONTROL AS IF IT WANTED TO EXPLODE. I THREW IT IN PARK AND TURNED THE ENGINE OFF. I TOWED MY CAR TO MY HOME. THE ISSUE IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. I WILL SEND MY CAR TO A MECHANIC ASAP.

4:

Date Complaint Filed: 08/18/2017

Date of Incident: 05/01/2016

Component(s): SERVICE BRAKES , VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL

NHTSA ID Number: 11016200

Consumer Location: SANDY, OR

Vehicle Make Model Model Year(s)

FORD FOCUS 2005

Crash:No

Fire:No

Number of Injuries:0

Number of Deaths:0

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN): 1FAFP34N25W...

SUMMARY:

TL* THE CONTACT OWNS A 2005 FORD FOCUS. WHILE DRIVING 35 MPH, THE VEHICLE ACCELERATED WITHOUT WARNING THE BRAKE PEDAL WAS APPLIED, BUT FAILED TO RESPOND. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO TWO DEALERS (SUBURBAN FORD, LOCATED AT 37000 HIGHWAY 26 SANDY, OR 97055, 503-688-5511 AND GRESHAM FORD LOCATED AT 1099 E POWELL BLVD GRESHAM, OR 97080, 888-644-3418) WHERE THE VEHICLE WAS UNABLE TO BE DIAGNOSED DUE TO NO FAILURE CODES. THE VEHICLE WAS NOT REPAIRED. THE MANUFACTURER WAS NOTIFIED OF THE FAILURE, BUT DID NOT ASSIST. THE FAILURE MILEAGE WAS 32,500... .UPDATED 10/04/17 *BF THE CONSUMER STATED THE FAILURE OCCURS AT ANY SPEED. UPDATED 10/17/2017*JS

5:

Date Complaint Filed: 08/05/2017

Date of Incident: 05/12/2017

Component(s): UNKNOWN OR OTHER

NHTSA ID Number: 11013018

Consumer Location: SANDY, OR

Vehicle Make Model Model Year(s)

FORD FOCUS 2005

Crash:No

Fire:No

Number of Injuries:0

Number of Deaths:0

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN): 1FAFP34N25W...

SUMMARY:

THIS FOCUS HAS BEEN SPEEDING UP, WITHOUT WARNING. THE BRAKES WILL NOT STOP IT. THIS HAS HAPPENED ABOUT 15 TIMES IN THE PAST YEAR. I HAVE TAKEN IT TO SUBURBAN FORD, WHERE I PURCHASED IT, BRAND NEW. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG. DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIX IT, ETC. I TELL THEM HOW FRIGHTENING THIS IS WHEN IT HAPPENS. I AM SO AFRAID I WILL HURT SOMEONE. THEY JUST LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M NUTS. THE SERVICE MANAGER TOLD ME THAT THE TECHNICIANS DON'T HAVE A CODE FOR UNINTENDED ACCELERATION. HE SAID IF IT WERE HIM, HE WOULD GET A NEW ONE. WELL, I CAN'T AFFORD A NEW ONE, SO I'M STUCK WITH IT. I HAVE HAD THIS SPEEDING UP, (AND ROARING VERY LOUDLY). WHEN DRIVING ON THE HIGHWAY, IN THE CITY, OR IN A PARKING LOT. IT ALMOST WENT FLYING THROUGH A PLATE GLASS WINDOW OF A STORE THERE ARE MANY ARTICLES ABOUT THIS ON THE COMPUTER. I PRINTED THEM OUT, AND TOOK THEM WITH ME TO THE DEALERSHIP. NO ONE WANTED TO SEE THEM. THIS HAPPENED WHEN I TOOK IT TO GRESHAM FORD, IN GRESHAM, ALSO. NO ONE CAN FIX IT, THEY LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M CRAZY, THEY DON'T CARE THAT THIS VEHICLE COULD HURT OR KILL SOMEONE. IT SCARES ME TO DRIVE IT. SO FAR, NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO HELP WITH THIS PROBLEM. OH,YES, IT ALSO DOES THIS WHEN IT IS STATIONARY.....THAT IS WHEN IT ROARS AS LOUD AS IT CAN. THIS CAR NEEDS A BRAKE OVERRIDE SYSTEM . THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS FORD MODELS, INCLUDING PICK UP TRUCKS, BETWEEN 2002 AND 2010 INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM. 14 STATES BACK EAST WERE INVOLVED IN A CLASS ACTION LAW SUIT AGAINST FORD FOR THIS. THE FACT THAT THESE PEOPLE OUT HERE (OREGON) KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT, CAN'T FIX IT BECAUSE "THERE HAVE BEEN NO OTHER REPORTS OF THIS HAPPENING", IS INFURIATING. THE FACT THAT THEY DON'T CARE THAT SOMEONE COULD GET KILLED IS HORRIBLE. THEY DON'T WANT TO STAND BEHIND THEIR PRODUCT, OR DO ANYTHING TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

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SEATTLE WA 98101

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