

MAY 04 2018

CL-11093148-7755

To Whom It May Concern,

April 16, 2018

I have tried a few times to contact Ford Motor Company about a concern I have with their 2018 Ford Expedition Max that is severely under-powered with only a 6-cylinder engine in a vehicle that is so large and heavy (5,500 lbs) and seats 8 people (1,600 lbs @ 200 lbs each) plus has room for at least 600 lbs cargo inside and on top of the vehicle and also has towing capability. They are not interested in safety, only profits. I would like to buy this model but because it does not come with V8 power I will not buy due to safety concerns. I live at high altitude and it is a very serious concern.

At 6,000 feet altitude gasoline engines lose 42 percent power rated at 7 percent loss per 1,000 feet of altitude above sea level. The higher the altitude the worse it gets. If a vehicle is this large with only a V6 engine and is fully loaded with 8 passengers and 600 lbs of cargo and towing something then they are in all probability a very dangerous vehicle on the road and should have a very experienced driver at the wheel. Lug nut tightness, proper wheel and tire size to include proper tire inflation must be perfect to make travel safer. Most people do not know that it is required to turn off the over-drive (O/D) feature when heavily loaded and/or towing to maintain effective control of the vehicle and not put excessive strain on the transmission and overall power train. It is explained in all the vehicle glove-box owner's manuals provided with the vehicle at time of purchase. When ascending a steep mountain at high altitude a driver should pull over every 1,000 feet for 15 minutes to allow the vehicle to acclimate and the computer to automatically adjust for the new altitude for optimal performance.

I see overloaded vehicles on the road nearly every time I am on the highway. Summer-time is a prime season for overloading.

I think there must be a requirement (regulations) to have a minimum of a V8 engine in order to tow anything especially with a large vehicle such as the one I referenced.

The V6 engine is fine on a large vehicle such as the Ford Expedition Max but it should not have a tow frame on the rear or a cargo rack on top. It should be restricted to passengers only with limited cargo inside only in the back.

The notorious 1990s Ford Explorer is a prime example. It was a design flaw from the beginning. Too narrow of an axle width and the wrong size wheels and tires designed by the manufacturer made it unstable without a load. Putting a load on top made it severely top heavy and easier to roll due to its narrow stance.

The trucking industry is regulated so why can't the personal vehicles be also? I see small business vehicles severely overloaded daily around town and on the freeway when they use them to get to the other side of town quicker.

Along the same lines: (example to make my point)

██████████ was traveling by small plane from the west coast to the east coast on April 12,

AM
5-8-18
W

1996 when she, her father and her flight instructor were attempting to take-off from the Cheyenne, Wyoming Airport after re-fueling, maintenance to the aircraft and a short break. Her plane crashed during take-off killing all 3 occupants. It was a shame. She was attempting to break the age record as the youngest female to perform such a feat at age [REDACTED]. The culprit was excessive weight and reduced power at high altitude. The lack of knowledge from the airport manager in not warning them not to fill their fuel tanks to the max causing excessive weight compounded by the rain on the exterior sealed their fate. There was way too much weight on the aircraft coupled with the high altitude loss of power and added rain water on the exterior that prevented the engine from supplying enough power to establish airborne vehicle flight. The instructor was at fault also because he should have known the physics and capability of the vehicle he was commanding. The little girl and her father were the victims of ignorance.

This story applies to ground running vehicles also. They don't fall from the sky but can be very dangerous if not sound and capable enough to handle the load and the road.

These over-loaded V6 engines could quit all of a sudden on busy freeways causing vehicles to slam into them or on dangerous mountain roads that are impassable making vehicles behind them unable to turn around to escape..

I am merely attempting to help save lives on our very dangerous roads by bringing this to your attention and recommending the fix. Please take my input seriously.

Government should and must regulate in order to help the citizenry stay safe.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Please write if you have any questions. I am a master mechanic/technician and know the science and physics of land vehicles.

[REDACTED]
Cheyenne, WY [REDACTED] (6,080 Feet above sea level)

[REDACTED] Land Line only – I cannot use cell phones due to cancer)

[REDACTED]

Cheyenne, WY

CHEYENNE WY 820

16 APR 2018 PM 1.1



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Admin.
Office of Defects Investigation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

