



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



November 4, 2020

[REDACTED]
Chicago, IL [REDACTED]

NEF-109 tgd
Ref. No. 11341066

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2016 Jeep Patriot vehicle. Your letter was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. We understand your concerns regarding the cause of the fire in your vehicle. We reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with engine compartment fires in MY 2016 Jeep Patriot vehicles. At this time, we lack evidence to open a safety defect investigation or initiate a recall. We entered your information into our database. It will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf.

Please note that a number of factors, other than a manufacturer's safety defect, can cause a vehicle fire, e.g., leaking fuel, oil and fluids, road debris, lack of maintenance, component wear, engine overheating, etc. When provided with all necessary details and particularly after an opportunity to examine the vehicle, an expert in fire reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to why a vehicle caught fire. We recommend that you continue to work with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, your dealer, and your insurance company regarding any unresolved issues pertaining to the vehicle fire.

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be reviewed on our website.

Sincerely,

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

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