



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



March 29, 2023

Vista, CA

NEF-109 tgd
Ref. No. 11509300

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2001 Dodge Ram 2500 vehicle. Your letter was forwarded to 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 roadways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects, such as in their design, construction, or performance. Among other activities, 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 us. We understand your concerns regarding the cause of fire in your vehicle. We reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with engine compartment fires/explosions in MY 2001 Dodge Ram 2500 vehicles. At this time, NHTSA has not identified sufficient evidence to open a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. However, we entered your information into NHTSA's database, where 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 encourage you to continue to work with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), your dealer, and your insurance company regarding any unresolved issues pertaining to the vehicle fire.

You may also ask your dealership for a meeting with an FCA district manager regarding your problem. You could consider contacting your local Consumer Protection Agency or the California Attorney General's Office regarding your problem and rights under state law. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regulates and investigates warranty and dealership problems, reimbursement matters, and fair-trade practices. Therefore, if you believe this issue potentially relates to such a practice, you may contact the FTC to discuss the matter.

There are three ways to contact the FTC: by toll free telephone at 877-382-4357; by mail at Federal Trade Commission, CRC-240, Washington, DC 20580; and by using the Internet complaint form at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

You may also consider contacting the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Auto Line. The BBB offers free mediation/arbitration to resolve warranty disputes under guidelines established by the FTC. Remedies include repair, reimbursement, repurchase or replacement, depending on program eligibility. You can visit their website at www.bbb.org to file a complaint and review eligibility information or call the BBB Auto Line at 800-955-5100.

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, you may review owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. on our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Reid, Chief
Consumer Engagement Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement