

[REDACTED]
Dayton, Ohio [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
September 9, 2025

Case # from email
11687226

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#/vehicle>

Subject: Urgent KIA 3.3L V6 Lambda II Engine Failure causing a fire in my 2018 Kia Sedona
2018 Kia Sedona VIN [REDACTED] PURCHASED APPROX 2/23/22

Dear NHTSA Administrator,

I write to you with a sense of urgency and deep concern regarding a critical matter that demands the immediate attention of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

I understand that there have been numerous recalls resulting from engine failures and fires in numerous Hyundai and Kia vehicles. I believe that the 3.3L V6 Lambda II engine failure caught our 2018 KIA Sedona on fire placing my husband in imminent danger.

On [REDACTED] my husband was driving home after work at 11:30 PM on [REDACTED] going north. As he was driving, he heard a chugging sound, immediately followed by a pop and a boom, and then a flash of light came from the hood and underneath the front of the van, smoke started and there were flames. He lost power to the van and he coasted to the right side of the highway where he came to a stop with flames occurring. Seeing this a semi-truck driver pulled over in front of my husband and came out of his truck with a fire extinguisher and sprayed his fire extinguisher under the car where the flames seemed to be originating.

This issue relating to my vehicle manifested itself suddenly and without any warning.

That evening my Kia was towed to our home.

A few days later Allstate had the van towed to a salvage yard called Copart's. A day or two later an Allstate adjuster inspected the van and determined something was wrong with the engine and had it moved from Coparts to Castrucci Kia.

Subsequently, the vehicle was towed from Copart's to Castrucci KIA:

3013 Mall Park Dr

Dayton, Ohio 45459

937-530-3683

TAR

After a couple failed attempts to contact KIA America via email I called Kia Directly. I received an email on July 16th with an email stating the case Number was [REDACTED]

Several more unsuccessful attempts to contact Kia Corporate for a follow-up I was informed on July 18th that KIA had sent an email to Castrucci that they were not allowed to touch the car until someone from Kia came to look at it:

On Friday, July 18 – 9:11 AM I received the following text from James at Castrucci Kia:

Hello [REDACTED]

I have the approval from your insurance company.

However, KIA said we can't touch your vehicle until we get the authorization from KIA to touch your vehicle.

I will keep you posted.

Thanks

James

Being advised by KIA America that it would take several weeks to resolve the engine problem, I asked KIA to provide me with a loaner, but they did not accommodate my request. As a result on August 8th, I had to rent a car with Enterprise and had to pay for the rental out of my own pocket for 11 days. Unable to pay over \$40 per day I bought a car for under \$500 on August 20th. so, I could continue work. Thankfully my Allstate insurance provided a rental but my coverage limited me to a 30 day rental. (July 10th thru August 8th). In the meantime, I have continued to make monthly car payments on my 2018 KIA Sedona.

On July 21st I received an email from Eathan at Kia America (949-468-1585) that they had sent out a fire and explosion consultant to inspect the vehicle.

Between July 21st thru mid-august I left KIA-USA over 20 messages and only received one return call.

July 28th, I received an email from Eathan at KIA-USA stating he did not have any updates, and they were still reviewing information. Later that day I reached him via telephone, and he stated it could be another week before they knew anything and then 1-2 weeks to generate a report.

On July 31st at 603 PM EST, I was informed by Eathan at Kia that my van had been assessed and that it had been an engine compartment fire but that the cause was inconclusive and they could not determine what started the fire. Again, I asked it to be in writing. As of this date I am still waiting for several requested reports. Obviously, KIA refuses to put anything in writing

In fact, I was informed that I would not receive any reports because such reports are deemed to be KIA property and could not be shared with me.

I want to point out that I made over twenty calls to KIA America. On two of those calls I was able to have a very brief conversation with Eathen and only one call was generated from KIA America. All three calls lasted less than a few minutes with no positive responses to my concerns.

On August 15th my father and husband went to the Castrucci Kia service department and were able to get a visual look at the underbody of the Sedona. The service representative, Brandon, showed some holes in the engine block and stated that the engine failure had probably thrown some of the rods causing holes in the lower engine block sparking a fire when the leaking oil hit the catalytic converter. Brandon stated that there were five holes.

They were told it would need a new engine at an approximate cost ranging from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

This is a KIA America responsibility not our responsibility.

On September 4th I sent a certified letter to the service manager of our local KIA center. (see the attachment). Please note that a vehicle maintenance log provided from Carfax including photocopies of service records was included in the letter to the Castrucci service department.

We have consistently maintained the 2018 Sedona since our purchase in February 2022.

The KIA manual recommends that the 2018 Sedona use full synthetic oil, and that an oil change is every 7,500 miles or every six months, whichever comes first.

In reviewing the maintenance log attached you will note that at no time did we exceed 7,500 mile intervals. In fact, we averaged less than 6,800-mile intervals.

Note that prior to our purchase, the vehicle was consistently maintained within KIA guidelines, as shown on the attached Carfax report.

I reiterate that despite maintenance and adherence to Kia guidelines my engine unexpectedly failed and subsequently caught on fire.

In summary:

I understand that the alarming surge of catastrophic engine failures in Hyundai and Kia vehicles, including those equipped with the 3.3L V6 Lambda II engine, has reached a level of severity that has necessitated comprehensive NHSTA action.

It is my understanding that hundreds of thousands of KIA's have been recalled due to the blocked engine, primary bearings, rod bearings, crankshaft, and cylinders that have caused catastrophic damage. In fact, numerous Kia models from 2010-2020 have defects that led to engine seizure, stalling, failure, and fire.

I believe that my 2018 KIA SEDONA's 3.3L gasoline direct injection (GDI) engine was manufactured defectively resulting in a catastrophic engine failure, APPARENTLY puncturing the engine block, causing engine oil to leak and ignite a fire.

It is apparent that Kia did not make the necessary changes to my 2018 Kia Sedona by overlooking the inclusion of my VIN in its recall which included hundreds of other 2018 Sedona's.

Our attempts to address this critical issue with Kia have been met with significant resistance and delays. It appears that KIA refuses to take responsibility.

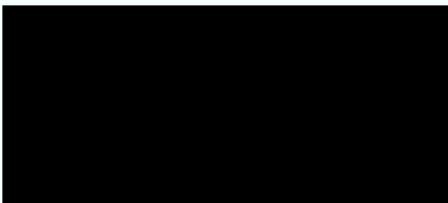
As I pointed out earlier, we were provided with a verbal quote for an engine replacement exceeding \$12,000. This unexpected and exorbitant amount, in addition to the gravity of this situation cannot be overstated coupled with the absence of any goodwill effort from Kia and has placed an undue financial strain on us.

We are still currently trying to implore the goodwill of Kia to cover the cost of the failed engine. In doing so, I have proven the maintenance records are within their manufacturer recommendations and at their request of inspection.

In closing, the evidence supporting this petition is irrefutable, grounded in an escalating number of safety complaints and incidents directly linked to the Kia 3.3L V6 Lambda II engine. Your intervention will not only uphold the core principles of the NHTSA but also safeguard the lives and well-being of countless American citizens. The urgency of this matter cannot be overstated, and I appreciate your unwavering commitment to ensuring the safety of our nation's motorists. I trust that your prompt attention to this issue will contribute significantly to mitigating potential risks and restoring public confidence in vehicular safety.

I appreciate your assistance in resolving this issue with KIA AMERICA and the local KIA service center where my vehicle is located.

Sincerely,



PS. UNDER SEPARATE COVER I WILL MAIL A COPY OF THIS LETTER WITH HARD COPIES OF ALL SERVICE RECORDS.

Sent by Certified Mail

[REDACTED]
Dayton, Ohio [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
September 4, 2025

Joshua Buchholz, Service Manager
Kia Service Department
Castrucci KIA
3013 Mall Park Dr.
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Subject: Request for Detailed Diagnostic Report –
2018 KIA Sedona Engine Failure on VIN # [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Buchholz,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the owner of the 2018 KIA Sedona
VIN # [REDACTED]. My vehicle was brought into your service department on
approximately July 15, 2025 for an engine failure diagnosis. The vehicle's current mileage
is 129,753.

I have been informed that the diagnosis concluded that the engine requires replacement
due to an unspecified reason other than the engine had five (5) holes in the lower block.

To better understand the findings and for my records, I am formally requesting a
comprehensive report detailing the diagnostic steps your technicians followed.

Specifically, I would appreciate a response that addresses the following questions:

- 1) What initial diagnostic tests were performed?
- 2) What were the specific readings or results from these tests
- 3) What physical evidence of the engine failure was observed during the inspection?
- 4) Please provide a timeline of the diagnostic process, including the date each test was performed and by which technician.
- 5) I also understand that KIA Corp. sent an individual fire and explosion consultant to inspect the vehicle. I am requesting all information that you may have from this inspection.

I understand that a diagnosis can be complex, and I'm simply seeking a clear, technical explanation of the findings. Please send the report to the address listed above or via email to [REDACTED]

I am enclosing a Carfax report as well as copies of service records for your records.

I am available to discuss this further, but I am hampered by my work schedule. You may find that texts and emails would be the best method of communication. Although, at my convenience, I can return phone calls when I am not actively working with patients.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

2018 KIA SEDONA LX

VIN [REDACTED]

Var / 3.5L V6 I DOHC 24V / Front wheel drive

This is an excerpt from the CARFAX Vehicle History Report.

Date	Mileage	Service Performed
6/20/2025	128,659	Vehicle serviced
4/10/2025	124,276	Vehicle serviced Air filter replaced Fluids checked Oil and filter changed
11/14/2024	117,215	Vehicle serviced Fluids checked Oil and filter changed Tires rotated
7/17/2024	110,467	Vehicle serviced Battery/charging system checked Fluids checked Oil and filter changed Tire condition and pressure checked Wiper(s) replaced
3/8/2024	-	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Oil and filter changed Tires rotated
11/7/2023	97,302	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Fluids checked Oil and filter changed Tire condition and pressure checked
10/20/2023	-	Vehicle serviced VIN glass etching vin etched
10/17/2023	96,767	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed
6/5/2023	91,648	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Fluids checked Oil and filter changed Tire condition and pressure checked
3/20/2023	87,705	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed
1/14/2023	84,470	Vehicle serviced Oil and filter changed
8/15/2022	77,077	Vehicle serviced Oil and filter changed
5/5/2022	72,900	Vehicle serviced Oil and filter changed
3/3/2022	-	Vehicle serviced
2/21/2022	69,209	Vehicle serviced Interior trim checked
10/4/2021	-	Vehicle serviced
9/24/2021	-	Vehicle serviced Fluids checked Rear brake pads replaced

9/13/2021	69,090	Vehicle serviced Pre-delivery inspection completed
9/9/2021	69,089	Vehicle serviced Vehicle washed/detailed
8/6/2021	67,528	Vehicle serviced Oil and filter changed
5/18/2021	62,430	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Body electrical system checked Vehicle washed/detailed
3/6/2021	57,390	Vehicle serviced Air filter replaced Oil and filter changed
8/26/2020	49,416	Passed safety inspection Passed emissions inspection
7/16/2020	-	Registration issued or renewed Passed safety inspection
4/20/2020	43,850	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Body electrical system checked Vehicle washed/detailed
7/30/2019	25,437	Passed safety inspection Emissions inspection performed
7/22/2019	24,886	Vehicle serviced Tire repaired
3/22/2019	16,460	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Oil and filter changed Tire condition and pressure checked Tires rotated Vehicle washed/detailed
1/5/2019	11,124	Vehicle serviced Maintenance inspection completed Oil and filter changed Vehicle washed/detailed
10/17/2018	5,933	Vehicle serviced Body electrical system checked Oil and filter changed
7/17/2018	-	Vehicle serviced Brakes checked Emissions or safety inspection performed
7/15/2018	-	Registration issued or renewed Titled or registered as personal lease vehicle Passed safety inspection
7/15/2018	31	Passed safety inspection Emissions inspection performed

Dayton Ohio



W41-306

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

NCF
9-18-25

Retail



20590

RDC 99

\$7.20

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