

U.S. Department
of TransportationNational Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT

1-888-DASH-2-DOT

1-888-327-4236

INTERNET: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

Date Received

CO JAN 21 PM 9:53

Od_or

rt_dt

od_rt

up_ltr

Reference No.

550515

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

S

C

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☒ YES ☐ NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA will NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner

Date 01 / 19 / 00

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Vehicle Ident. No. (VIN) (17 Digits) 1G4HR54K87L124924	(Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side)	Vehicle Make BUICK	Vehicle Model LE SABRE	Vehicle Year 2000	Current Odometer Reading 8720
Purchased Date 08/04/99	Dealer's Name GALLAGHER BUICK INC	Engine Size (CID/CC/L) 6	☐ Turbo ☐ Diesel ☒ Gas ☐ Fuel Injection		
☒ New ☐ Used	Dealer's City NEW BRITAIN	State CT	Zip Code	No. Cylinders 6	
Transmission Type ☐ Manual ☒ Automatic	Antilock Brakes ☒ Yes ☐ No	Restraint System ☒ Driverside Airbag ☐ Motorbelt ☒ Passengerside Airbag ☐ 2-Point Belt ☒ 3-Point Belt	Cruise Control ☒ Yes ☐ No	Drivetrain ☒ Front ☐ Rear ☐ 4-Wheel	Vehicle Type ☒ Car ☐ Sport Util. ☐ Van ☐ Truck ☐ Minivan ☐ Motorcycle ☐ Other
Body Style ☐ 2-Door ☒ 4-Door ☐ Station wagon ☐ Pick Up Truck ☐ Other					

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Component	Part Name(s) HEADLAMPS	Location ☐ Left ☐ Right ☒ Front ☐ Rear	Failed Part(s) ☒ Original ☐ Replacement
No. of Failures	Date(s) of Failure(s) December 1999 Mileage at Failure(s) 6300 Vehicle Speed at Failure(s) 65 MPH	Failed Part(s) Available? ☒ Yes ☐ No	NHTSA Previously Contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

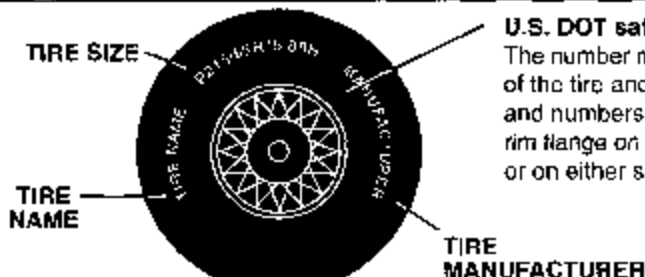
(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies) on the back of this form)

Crash ☐ Yes ☐ No	Fire ☐ Yes ☐ No	Number Persons Injured	Number of Fatalities	Estimated Property Damage \$	Reported to Police ☐ Yes ☐ No
---	--	------------------------	----------------------	---------------------------------	--

INFORMATION ON TIRE FAILURE(S) (IF APPLICABLE)

To report defective or failed tires provide the following: DOT Number, Tire Manufacturer, Tire Name, Tire Size (include all numbers and letters).
Note: This information not required for normal operation tires.

DOT	Manufacturer	Tire Name	Complete Tire Size
-----	--------------	-----------	--------------------



U.S. DOT safety standard code

The number may be on the inner side of the tire and have up to 11 letters and numbers. Usually located near rim flange on side opposite whitewall or on either side of blackwall tire.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administration enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

2000 BUICK LE SABRE

The Owner's Manual, for this vehicle states on page 2-46, "If the (headlamps) Twilight Sentinel lighting is active, it can be disabled by turning on the manual parking lamps." Unfortunately, if the headlamps are on while driving at night, and the Twilight Sentinel is engaged, and the "manual parking lamps switch" [P] is touched, the headlamps turn off immediately.

I was driving on Interstate 384 late at night at about 65 MPH, I moved to adjust the Instrument Panel Intensity/Brightness Control, located extremely close to the right of the "manual parking lamps switch" [P]. My left hand knuckles hit the "manual parking lamps switch" and the headlamps turned completely off and I was driving blindly in pitch darkness at 65 MPH. Fortunately I had read the Owner's Manual and realized what had happened, and was able to recover and reestablish a safe driving environment by touching the "manual parking lamps switch" [P] to turn the headlamps on again.

This recovery procedure is not discussed in the Owner's Manual. At 65 MPH my vehicle traveled a good distance and nearly ran into the guard rail on the edge of the left lane. I hate to imagine what would have happened if I had not read the Owner's Manual and had presence of mind to recover from this dangerous situation. Please think of the inexperienced driver [who never read the Owner's Manual], alone at night, who accidentally touches the "manual parking lamps switch" [P] and loses the headlamps. Even worse, imagine it happening on dark rainy night while traveling on a dark, curvy, hilly, blacktop country road.

Another safety problem is the rear window defroster. It is a poor design inasmuch as it only defrosts about 40% of the rear window. This is a serious concern in this snowy area of the United States.

01. 17-00