

June 8, 2002

U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

COPIED

Subject: Firestone Tire Failure

566268

I purchased a (new) 1999 Ford F350 diesel truck in May of 1999. This truck was purchased as a means of transportation to work and for vacations. The truck currently has 37, 548 miles on its original set of Firestone LT 265/75 R16 radial tires. These tires were manufactured in Canada # 28203 EX BM 14480-S. These tire have a load range of E. All tires are run with 70 psi and were inspected for air pressure routinely.

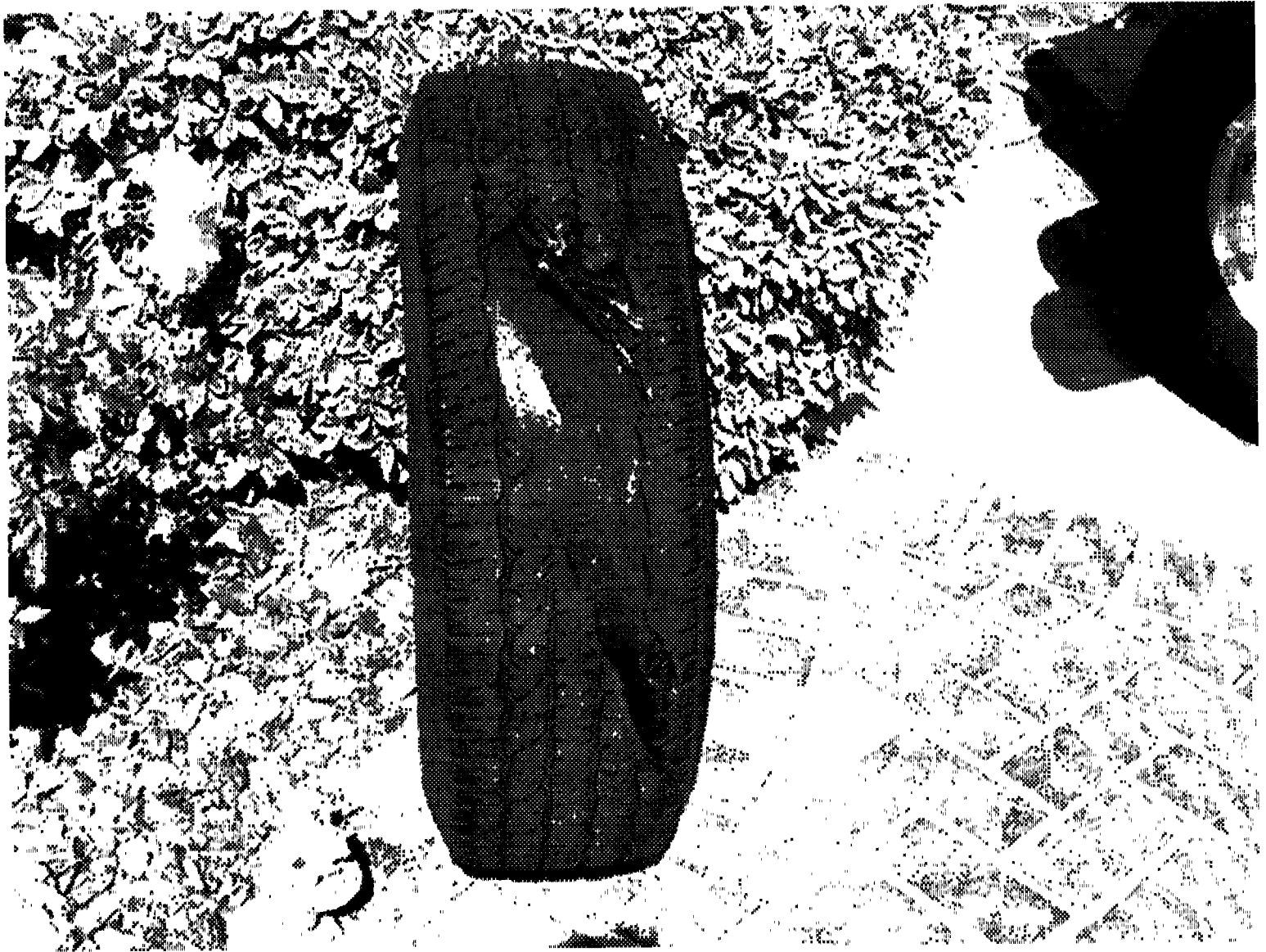
Over the last week the truck suddenly developed a pull to the left. I had not hit anything that would have caused a misalignment of the front end. On Saturday June 6th, I was southbound the San Diego Freeway (I/S-405) and a slight vibration in the front end developed. I drove to Orange County approximately 37 miles. On my return trip the vibration increased and I proceeded to slow and pull over to the right side of the roadway. Prior to reaching the far right lane, a large piece of tread separated from the right front tire. The tire maintained air pressure and I was able to stop in the emergency lane. An inspection of the tire found a section of the tire tread missing. The damaged area started on the outer edge, proceeding to the middle of the tire and stopping towards the left side of the tire. The tread separation area is approximately 22 inches long and 5 inches wide. No signs of penetration into the core of the tire were observed.

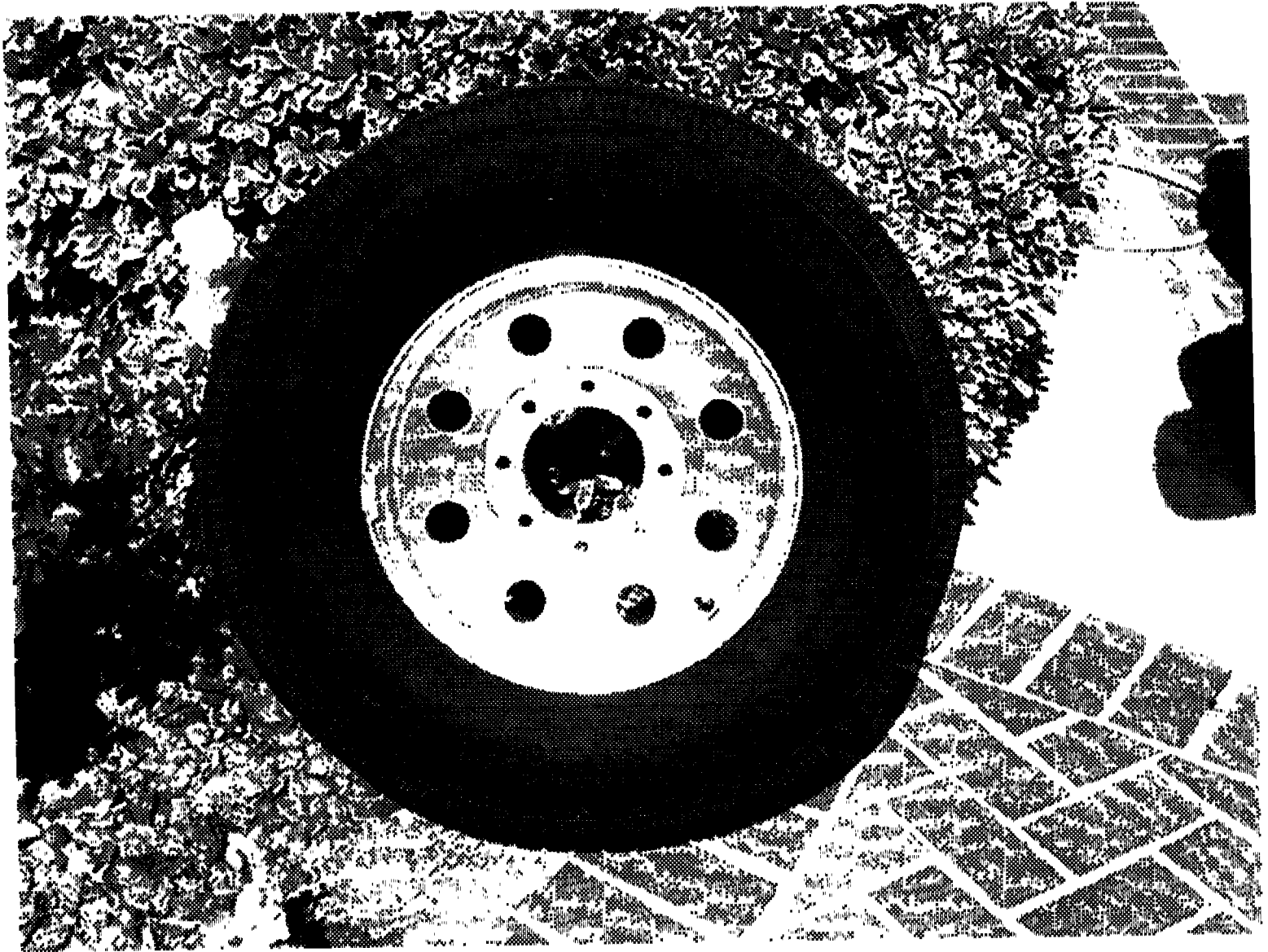
This letter is for the purposes of advising you of this Firestone tire failure. I will be replacing the entire set of tires on Monday June 10th. A set of digital photographs of the tire is attached to this letter.

Sincerely,

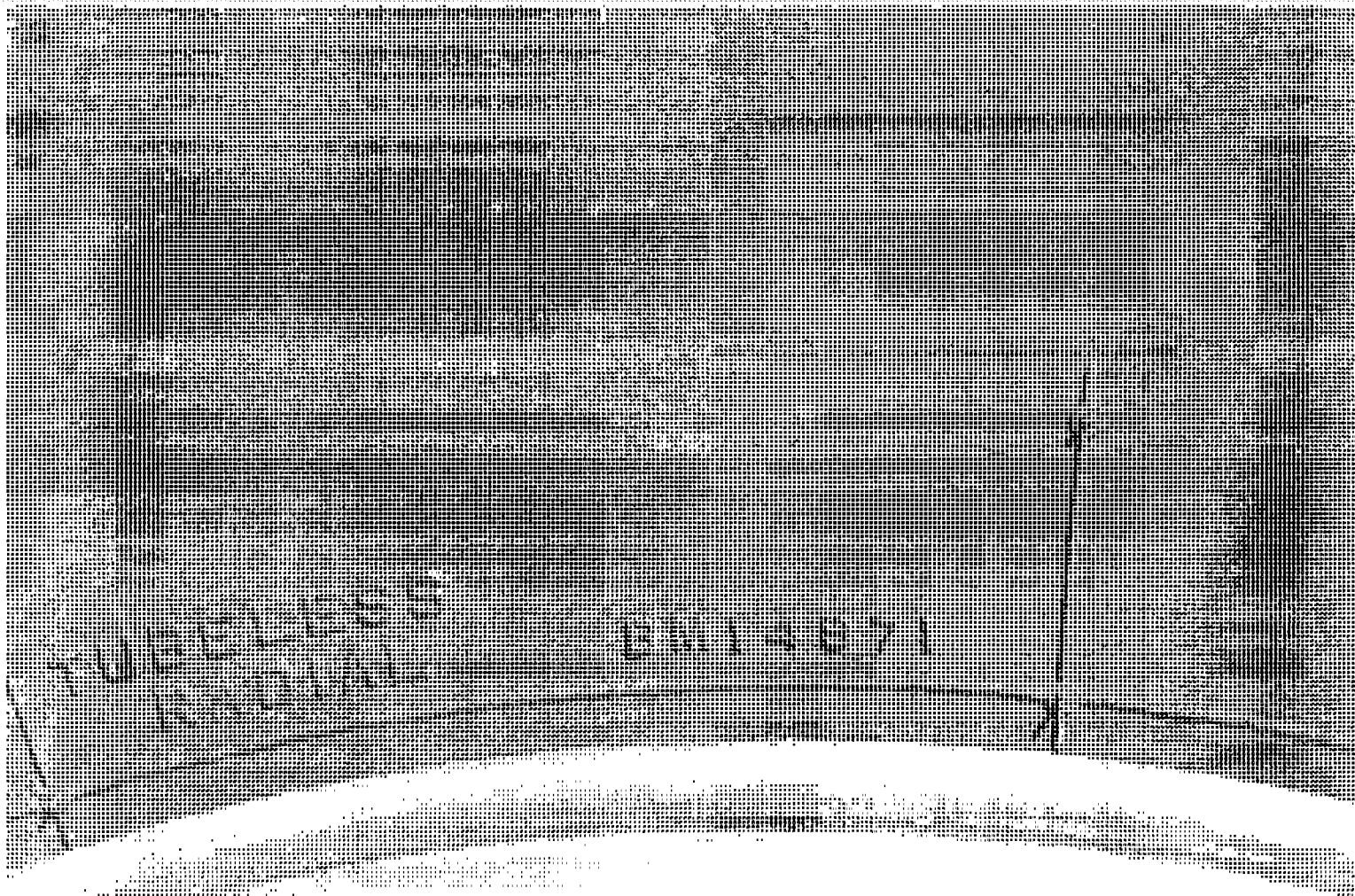
Long Beach, Ca.

Email-









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