

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

02 JUL 20 AM 9:56

OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

[REDACTED]

07 June 2002

NHTSA
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

566837

Please see attached letter and statement regarding a potential safety problem with certain Ford vehicles.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Franklin, MA

Ford Motor Company
Lincoln Customer Assistance Center
300 Renaissance Center
P.O. Box 43340
Detroit, MI 48243

I am the owner of a 1996 Lincoln Mark VIII, VIN 1LNLM91V5TY [REDACTED] with approximately 46,000 miles. The following situation happened to my wife on Tues., June 04, 2002. I believe this is a safety situation that is applicable to some of the Ford Motor Company line of rear wheel drive vehicles and needs correction. I would also like reimbursement for the work necessary to put my car back into operating condition.

When my wife left work on Tues., she could not get the shift lever out of park. She read the manual and it told how to override the lock out. The manual also said that the brake lights probably would be out. She checked, and they were. Not wanting to drive without brake light she proceeded about 1/2 mile to a local auto service shop and asked them to replace the fuse. When they started the vehicle to bring it into the garage, the starter continued to stay engaged with the engine running, even with the keys removed. The service shop finally got the vehicle stopped.

The repair necessary was due to the ECM bracket coming loose and shorting out the brake wires and some how shorting out wires that caused the starter and engine to continue to run.

Mentioning this situation, to a town DPW mechanic, we were told that they have had to make this same repair to at least 2 of the Crown Victoria police cars in town. **He also said that this is caused by the bracket being insufficiently supported.**

In this respect I feel this could be a safety situation requiring a recall. If the timing had been different the vehicle could have caught fire causing complete loss of the vehicle and maybe it's occupants and surroundings.

I have enclosed a copy of my repair bill. Any help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Copy to: NHTSA

THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).