

ODI Action Number: **EA02-025**

Date: **09-06-2002**

Subject: **FORD MOTOR COMPANY
1992 - 1997 TOWN CAR, CROWN VICTORIA, AND
GRAND MARQUIS**

ALLEGED ENGINE COMPARTMENT FIRES FAILURE

This file contains consumer letters received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which complain of the alleged defect that is the subject of this Engineering Analysis. It also contains correspondence between this agency and the manufacturer on the subject. Portions of that correspondence may be withheld where the manufacturer has claimed that they are confidential pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), which exempts from disclosure confidential commercial and financial information. Additional documents relating to this Engineering Analysis may exist, but have not been included in this public file.

If you have any information or concerns you would like to discuss with NHTSA staff, please call the

TOLL FREE AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

800-424-9393

(In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, please call 202-366-0123)

Also, if you wish to discuss the investigation with NHTSA staff, the HOTLINE contact representative will have a technical staff member return your telephone call.



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

ODI RESUME

[Handwritten initials]

INVESTIGATION: EA02-025
DATE OPENED: SEP 6 2002
SUBJECT: Engine Compartment Fires
PROMPTED BY: RQ01-002
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: F. Borris

MANUFACTURER: Ford Motor Company
MODEL(S): Town Car, Crown Victoria, Grand Marquis
MODEL YEAR(S): 1992-1997
VEHICLE POPULATION: 1,890,389

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: The speed control deactivation switch can develop an internal short resulting in a fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	16	31	47
CRASHES:	0	0	0
# INJURIES:	0	0	0
# FATALS	0	0	0

ACTION: An Engineering Analysis has been opened.

ENGINEER:

[Signature]
9/6/02

DIV CHIEF:

[Signature]
9/6/02

OFC DIR:

[Signature]
9/6/02

DATE:

DATE:

DATE:

SUMMARY: In its Letter dated May 13, 1999 to ODI, Ford indicated that it would conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Recall number 99V-124 or Ford 99S15) to remedy an overheating speed control deactivation switch in approximately 279,000 subject vehicles. The vehicles Ford determined to be affected by the recall are model year (MY) 1992-1993 Lincoln Town Car vehicles built from November 4, 1991 through November 30, 1992 and MY 1992-1993 Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis vehicles built from February 5, 1992 through November 30, 1992.

Since opening RQ01-002, ODI has identified eight additional reports of engine compartment fires in Ford vehicles equipped with a nearly identical speed control deactivation switch but beyond the scope of Ford's recall. Ford's response to ODI's Oct 19, 2001 letter also provided 31 reports of engine compartment fires in subject vehicles not included in Ford's recall.

An Engineering Analysis is warranted to determine if a safety defect trend exists.

9/9/02

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