PE04-078
FORD
1/28/2005
ATTACHMENT F
BOOK 9 OF 12
PART 3 OF 6

# State Farm Insurance Companies



P. O. Sox 799013 Dalles, TX 75379-9010

February 1, 2002

Ford Motor Co. Parklane Towers West, Ste. 400 3 Parklane Blvd Dearborn, MI 48126

RE: Claim Number:

Date of Loss: Our Insured:

Make/Model/Year:

September 25, 2001

1999 Ford P/u 1FTRX08L3XX

Dear Ford:

This vehicle was insured by State Farm and involved in a comprehensive loss. The claim settled for \$23,236.80, which includes our insured's deductible.

Our investigation establishes the cause of loss was due to engine\_ compartment fire --

Enclosed is our documentation. We will retain the evidence until we conclude this matter with your company. You may contact me to arrange for inspection of the vehicle.

Please consider this notice as our demand for reimbursement.

Sincerely,

Hong Redil Tompa Bodell

Claim Specialist Subrogation Unit/Team 40

(972) 732-4842

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Your acceptance of our request for your services and your performance of those services are expressly conditioned on and subject to your agreement that: (1) you will not use customer information we provide for any purpose other than the specific services we are asking you to perform, and (2) you will disclose

HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 81710-0001

PE84-878 C 3647

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Page 2 February 1, 2002

or share customer information we provide only to the extent necessary to accomplish the services that we request.



491077 Andrew

04.45.20

BEGINNING OF CONTACT

| 12/19/2003 | MASTER UNNE | R KEDATIONS SISTEM | LIT         |
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|            | INOUIRY     | 199UE              | CASE NER: 1 |

CASE NER: 1400133523

REGION: 52 SOUTHWEST ZONE: B2 OFFINED: 12/16/2003
VIN: 1FTEX17W2Y ENGINE: W VEH TYPE: T CLOSED: 12/18/2003

LAST NAME: STATUS: CLOSED

TITLE: FIRST NAME: NI:

ADDRESS:
CITY: HOUSTON STATE: TX ZIP:

HOME PRONE: MODEL: F150 SUPERCAB 4X2 STYLESIDE

MILEAGE: 1
DEALER NAME: NAC HAIR FORD SALES CODE: F52031 F & A: 04511

REASON CODE: 0703 LEGAL - ALLEGED SERIOUS INJURY

SYMPTOMS: 704145 FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME UNDERROOD

ORIGIN: CACI36 - US CONCERN CASE BASE COMMUNICATION: PEONE

ACTION: 705 - CONTACT ADVANCED TO OCC

DOCUMENT: ANALYST: GBUTLE11 BUTLER GAVIN

ACTION DATA/COMMENTS;

#### 2003/12/18

11.06.51

CUSTOMER SAID: - CUSTOMER SAYS THAT THERE WAS A FIRE IN THE VERICLE LAST WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH. - THE VEHICLE WAS SITT ING IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMER'S AFARTMENT BUILDING AT THE TIM E. - CUSTOMER TRIED TO PUT THE PIRE OUT BUT COULD NOT DO SO. - FIRE DEPT. CAME OUT. - CUSTOMER WAS INJURED DURING THE FI RE. HE SAYS IT WAS DUE TO AN EXPLOSION UNDER THE HOOD. HE SAYS THAT HE WAS INJURED ON THE ARM. - CUSTOMER SAYS THAT F THE DEPT. BAYS IT WAS A DEFECT WITH THE VEHICLE. - CUSTOMER SAYS IT STARTED IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. - PRICE TO FIRE. BORN WAS BLOWING AND WIFERS WERE GOING. - INSURANCE COMPANY HAS TOWED VEHICLE TO STORAGE LOT. VEHICLE IS NOT REPAIRABLE CUSTONER DOES NOT KNOW THE STATUS OF THE CLAIM WITE THE I MEURANCE COMPANY. HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET HOLD OF THEM. - CUSTOMER MANTS THE TRUCK REPLACED, DEALER SAID: MAC HAIR CRC ADVISED: - I WILL FORWARD THIS IMPORMATION TO OUR FORD LEGAL DEPARTMENT. SOMEBODY WILL CONTACT YOU IN 7- 10 BOSINE SS DAYS.

DEC 2 3 2003

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

12/19/2003 MMFAXFRG

PER4-078 C 3650



FORD MOTOR COMPANY

SEP 1 5 2003

OFFICE OF (HE GENERAL COUNSEL



:34

Cartified - Return Receipt Requested and Regular Mail

September 5, 2003

Ford Motor Company
Office of General Counsel
Parkland Towers West, Suite 300
Three Parkland Boulevard
Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

RE: Our Insured:

Policy Number:

Date of Loss: 07/27/2603

Dear Sir or Medame,

This letter is to advise you that our above Insured suffered a fire loss to their 2001 Ford Expedition. Our Insured salvised Nationwide he was travelling down a roadway when the vehicle caught on fire in the engine compartment. Our initial investigation has indicated the fire originated in the engine compartment. Our Insured has further advised the vehicle was purchased new and is still under warranty by Ford Motor Company. This letter will serve to place you on notice that Nationwide may pursue a subrogation claim against Ford Motor Company should the cause be determined to be the responsibility of Ford Motor Company.

This letter will confirm Nationwide's intent to conduct a full Cause and Origin investigation on the subject vehicle. While we do not intend to cause any damage to the vehicle during our investigation, there is potential for damage. I would like to extend the opportunity for Ford Motor Company to have a representative present to participate in the examination.

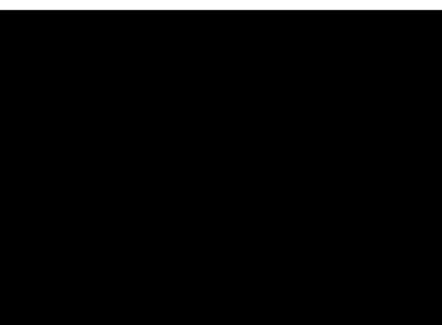
A date and time for the examination have not been set. The vehicle is currently located at a secure salvage facility called Verastar which is located in Winder, GA. Please have your representative contact me and we will set a date and time mutually convenient for all parties to be present for the examination.

if you have any questions, please call me at 478-987-8153.

Sincerely.

Michael Smith Special Investigator

Nationwide Insurance Company



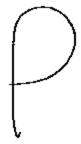
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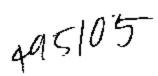




110 Elwood Davis Road \* No. Syracuse, NY 13212-4310 \* \*

October 27, 2004

Ford Motor Co Office of General Counsel Shawn Norton Parklane Towers West - Suite 300 Three Parklane Blvd Dearborn, MI 48126



OUR INSURED : OUR CLAIM NUMBER : DATE OF LOSS :

Dear Ms. Norton:

Please be advised that Nationwide is the insurance carrier for the above-named insured, who sustained fire damage to his automobile on the above date of loss. Our preliminary investigation reveals that this fire may have resulted from a defect in the automobile, and that you were placed on notice of a potential claim against you, as well as providing you with the opportunity to inspect the vehicle. To date there has been no contact to schedule any inspection by your office.

This letter is to inform you that on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM we will conduct an inspection, photograph and testing of the 2000 Expedition involved in this matter. This inspection will take place at SEA, Ltd., 7349 Worthington-Galena Rd., Columbus, OH 43085. Should you, or someone on behalf of Ford, like to be present and take part in this inspection please contact the undersigned and/or Mr. Richard Marzola of SEA, Ltd. and advise same. If we have had no contact from you prior to, our inspection will commence as scheduled.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY Kathleen Styer Claims Department (315)453-3587

ce: FTI SEA CONSULTING USE 521261113 ho coperficient

## Ziegler, Metzger & Miller llp

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

THE HANTWOTON BUILDING

925 FIXER AVERA, SINTE 2020

CLEVELAND, OHTO 44115-1441

1216) 761-8470 PAX IZIBI 784-0714

May 25, 2004

Shawn L. Norton Claims Analyst/Litigation Assistant Ford Motor Company Parklane Towers West, Suite 300 Three Parklane Boulevard Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2568

RECEIVED JUN - 1 2004

Re:

Nationwide Insured:

Nationwide Claim No.

Date of Loss: December 30, 2003

Dear Ms. Norton:

This office represents Nationwide Insurance with the above-referenced claim. I have enclosed responses to your April 13, 2004 request for additional information. Further, I have enclosed copies of recorded interviews, affidavit of vehicle tire, fire incident report, black & white photographs, and Nationwide's claim checks. You will note that a cause and origin report was not yet prepared. Pleuse advise within ten days if you would like to schedule a joint vehicle inspection; otherwise. I will have Nationwide's expert inspect the vehicle without a Ford representative present.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Office of the Gonard Coulomb

#### PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

Ford Motor Company Partitions Towers West Suite 300 Three Parkiens Squieward Oatrborn, Michigan 48128-2563

April 13, 2004

| 4200 H<br>OH 20<br>Grove | GROV<br>City, OH 4        | L, Suite B RECEIVED MAY 1 0 2084  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| RE:                      | Claima<br>Your Cl<br>DOL: |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dear M                   | a. Ameli:                 |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | eat that y                | mowledge your recently submitted subrogation claim. In order to easist us in evaluating your claim,<br>rou provide us with the following information: (Please note that the information requested is in regard to<br>clared vehicle.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ×                        | 1.                        | Attach your insured's statement with a complete description of the incident, including events that occurred prior to and subsequent to the loss.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ø                        | 2                         | A copy of the police and/or line report.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X                        | 3.                        | Original color photographs of the vahicle's collision/life damage & the alleged defective parts, from several different angles.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | 4.                        | Original color photographs of the inside of the vehicle showing the steering wheel, dash and roof areas.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | <b>5</b> .                | Original cutor photographs of the accident / fire scene from several different angles.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| M                        | 6.                        | Attach a copy of your expent's report and the expert's original photographs.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| X                        | 7.                        | Attach the repair estimate, repair order, or your total loss worksheet for the  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          |                           | Vehicle's damage and any losses associated with this incident, and cooles of draft payments.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ×                        | 8.                        | Attach the complete service history for the subject vehicle, including any tune-ups or oil changes.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| form;                    | Piesse :                  | enswer the following in the space provided. If you need additional space, please use the back of the  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | 9.                        | What was the <u>city</u> and <u>state</u> of occurrence; <u>Kenova</u> , <u>West Virginia</u> .   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | 10.                       | The 17 digit vehicle identification number:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          |                           | 1FMPUL6L4YI   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | 11.                       | What was the mileage at time of occurrence: <u>approximately 88,000 miles</u> .   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                          | 12                        | What is the alleged detect:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| What is the c                 | urrent location of the vehicle? <u>ADS, Inc., 123 Fourwheel Drive, Ashle</u>                    |
|-------------------------------|---|
| List all after n              | neriver) additions or modifications that were made to the vehicle:                              |
|                               | <u> </u>  |
|                               |   |
|                               |   |
|                               |   |
| Was the engl                  | ne running? (circle one) Yes or 1962  |
| -                             | ne running? (circle one) Yes or <b>NAX</b><br>s in the Ignition? (circle one) Yes or <b>NAX</b> |
| Were the key                  |   |
| Were the key<br>Was this vehi | s in the Ignition? (circle one) Yes or 196%   |

Once we are in receipt of the requested information, it will be reviewed and you will be notified of our decision concerning your claim. Should you not send all of the requested information and materials, we will assume that you are not interested in pursuing a claim and we will close our file. Please note that your vehicle will not be inspected until all the above information has been submitted and a determination has been made as to whether an inspection is warranted.

Please be advised that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the subject vehicle and all of its component parts are maintained and preserved for trial. Ford Motor Company has the right to inspect the vehicle and remove and test any component part that you claim to be defective, and to be presented with the vehicle and the subject component part(s) at the time of trial, should litigation ensue from this informal claim.

If you propose to repair the vehicle for continued usage, such repairs may not be performed until after Ford Motor Company has inspected the vehicle and removed and tested any component part you claim to be defective or advised you in writing that it does not intend to perform such inspection end/or testing at this time. But even in that event, Ford Motor Company will install that all components claimed to be defective are maintained and preserved for trial.

Sincerety,

Shawn L. Norton Claims Analyst / Litigation Assistant Fire Dot Ro

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# COPY

#### AUTO FIRE RECORDED INTERVIEW GUIDELINE

Auto Theft Recorded Interview Guideline

| Policyholder: |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Nationwide I  | nsurainee |

Date of interview: 12/31/03 11:22am

This is Kim Arnett for Nationwide Insurance recording a conversation between myself and ( ) from my office in Gahanna OH on ( ) at ( ) concerning and auto theft, which occurred on ( ).

( ), do you understand this interview is being recorded? YES Do I have your permission to record this interview? YES

Name:

Address: SAME

How long have lived there? 7 YRS Do you Rent/Own/Live p/parents? OWN

Date of Birth:

SS#:

Marital Status:

Your Employer (name/address): STILL OF WV How long have you worked there?: 3-4 YRS

Job Title:

Salary: 17.35/HR

Do you have any other Income: VA BENEFITS

Does anyone else live in your household? YES, WIFE AND 2 CHILDREN - AGES 10

AND 4

Does anyone else have permission to use your vehicle? NOT ON A REGULAR BASIS

#### VEHICLE INFORMATION

YEAR/MAKE/MODEL: 00 FORD EXPEDITION

Exterior Color: BLUE

Mileage: NOT SURE, THINK DUE FOR OIL CHG AROUND 85 OR 86,000

Prior damage to body: NO Prior damage to interior: NO

Body style: 2DR XX4DR Hatchback Convertible Wagon Van Utility

Pickups: 1/4 ton 1/4 ton 1 ton short bed long bed extended cab Engine: Cylinders: 4 6 8 12 Size: Turbo Diesel

Transmission: XAutomatic 4 speed 5 speed 6 speed XX4WD Overdrive

Power Opts

Radio

Convenience

Wheels

Truck/Van/SUX- Non-Carlo

|   | Brakes      | X | AM                             | X | AC                           | 7       | Alumicum            | X        | Rumning<br>Boards      |
|---|-------------|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------|---------------------|----------|------------------------|
|   | Steering    | X | FM                             | X | Rear<br>Defogger             |         | Styled Steel<br>WH  | >        | Trailering<br>Package  |
| 3 | Windows     | X | Stereo                         | X | Tilt Wheel                   | $\prod$ | Mag Wheels          |          | Tonesu<br>Cover        |
| Κ | Locks       | X | Cassette                       | X | Cruise<br>Control            | П       | Wire Wheels         | Γ.       | Rear Sliding<br>Window |
| K | Driver Seat | 7 | CD/Stack -<br>10 DISC<br>CHGER |   | Leather Int.                 |         | Wire WH<br>Cover    |          | Truck cap              |
| 7 | Pass Scat   |   | Equalizer                      |   | Sourcof (m<br>or c)          |         | Alloy<br>Wheels     |          | Bed Liner              |
|   | Antenna     |   | Атр                            | X | Alarm                        |         | Rally Wheels        | X        | Luggage<br>Rack        |
| 7 | Micrors     |   |                                | X | Keyless<br>Remote            | _       | Deluxe WH<br>Covers |          | Permanent<br>Toolbox   |
|   | Trank       |   |                                | X | Tinted<br>Windows<br>FACTORY |         | -                   | <b>`</b> | Rear wiper             |
|   | ·           |   |                                |   | Rear<br>Spoiler              |         |                     |          | Paint                  |

ANY OTHER OPTIONS: NO

When was vehicle purchased? NOV LAST YR - USED

BOUGHT OFF MY FRIEND THAT OWNS CAR LOT AND IT WAS HIS WIFES -

BELIEVES SHE WAS ORIGINAL OWNER.

How much did you pay? 18 OR 19000

Where was vehicle purchased? BIG BLUE AUTO

Was it NEW OR USED? USED

Who is vehicle titled to? MINE AND WIFE

Is the vehicle financed? YES

Lienholder name and address: HERITAGE BANK

Phone: 606-920-7300

Account #:

Monthly payment:

Is your account current? YES

Have you ever missed any payments? NO

HAVE YOU TRIED TO SELL/TRADE RECENTLY? NOT WITHIN LAST 4-5 MO'S, WE LOOKED AT SOME OF THE 2003'S, BECAUSE A FRIEND GOT A REAL GOOD DEAL AND WE WERE SEEING IF WE COULD GET SAME DEAL

How many sets of keys are there? JUST ONE

Are all keys accounted for? WITH THE VEHICLE

FIRE INFORMATION

Date and time of Fire: HAVENT SEEN REPORT YET, AROUND 330PM YESTERDAY Location of Fire: CENOVA EXIT KENOVA What fire dept responded? Where is the vehicle at now? DUCKYS' TOWING What are the damages to the vehicle? NO HOOD AND ENTIRE FRONT MELTED, SEATS STILL SMOLDERING, ETTHER SMOKE OR STEAM, WINDOWS BLOWN Was vehicle unoccupied or being operated at the time of the fire? RIEND OF FAMILY - DOES WORK ON FAMILY VEHICLES AS A FAVOR TO FATHER IN LAW, UNK LAST NAME WAS TAKEN TO HIM, ABOUT A WEEK AGO, NOT SURE IF HE'S DONE ANY WORK ON IT, HE HAD THE FLU WHEN WE TOOK IT THERE LIVES ON 4TH AVE IN HUNTINGTON UNK PHONE - DON'T THINK HE HAS A PHONE WILL HAVE TO GET AHOLD OF FATHERINLAW TO GET AHOLD OF TOM Who was operator/last person to drive vehicle? JNK LAST NAME How long being driven/parked immediately before the fire occurred? HAVENT TALKED TO HIM (TOM) I CAME HOME LAST NIGHT AROUND 630 OR 7PM AND SEVERAL MSGS FROM PATHERIN<u>LAW THAT SOMETHING</u> WAS WRONG WITH MY CAR. FATHERINLAW? Was anyone else present? DON'T THINK SO (PH WAS NOT PRESENT) Was anyone injured? Did you notice smoke or flames first? What color was smoke? Where was smoke/flames coming from? Have you had any trouble with the vehicle in the past 24 hrs? CUTTING OUT WHEN HE REACHED 60-65 MPH Have you had any recent work done on the vehicle? NOT THAT HE IS AWARE OF BRAKES PUT ON IT WHEN HE WOULD GET UP TO ABOUT 60-65 MPH, IT WAS MISSING, CUTTING BACK, THAT'S WHY IT WAS TAKEN TO TOM SHOP HE WORKS AT? NO I'VE NEVER HAD A LOT OF Where do you normally have vehicle serviced? TROUBLE BEFORE, BRAKES AT THE FORD PLACE OIL CHGS? FORD MAINT RECORD? NO When did you last have vehicle serviced? UNK Oil change? UNK. Were there known mechanical or electrical defects with the vehicle? NO, OTHER THAN CUITING OUT RECALL NOTICES? NO Were there any other problems with the vehicle? NO Have you had any problems with anyone or anyone making threats against you? NO If yes, nature of threat?

Do you or your spouse amoke? NO
TOM SMOKES? NOT SURE
Do you keep any flammable materials or liquids in the vehicle? NO
Do you have any other insurance? NO
Have you had any other insurance claims? NO
Did you have any personal property in the vehicle? NOT SURE, PROBABLY CDS, TAPES
Do you know how the fire started? NO
TALKED WITH FIRE DEPT? NO
WILL GET A COPY OF THE REPORT
LEAVING TOWN UNTIL SAT.
Do you believe the fire to be accidental? YES

#### Page 2 of 3

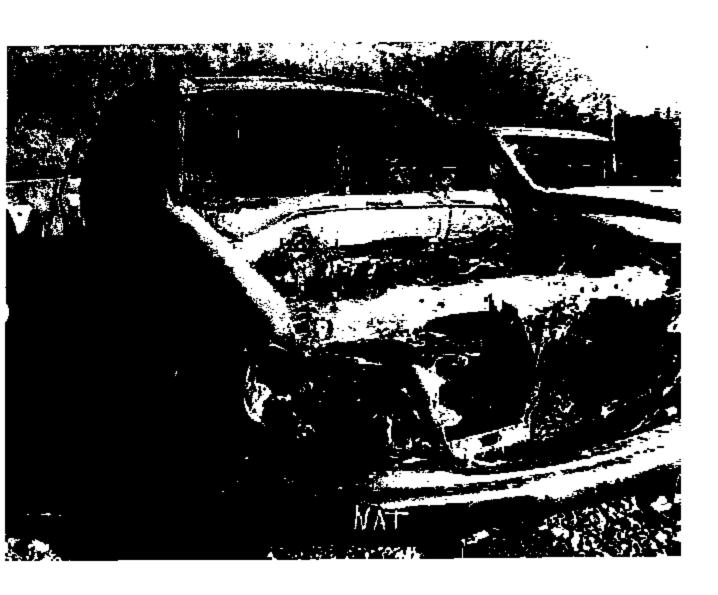
# AFFIDAVIT OF VEHICLE FIRE (All Questions Must Be Auswered)



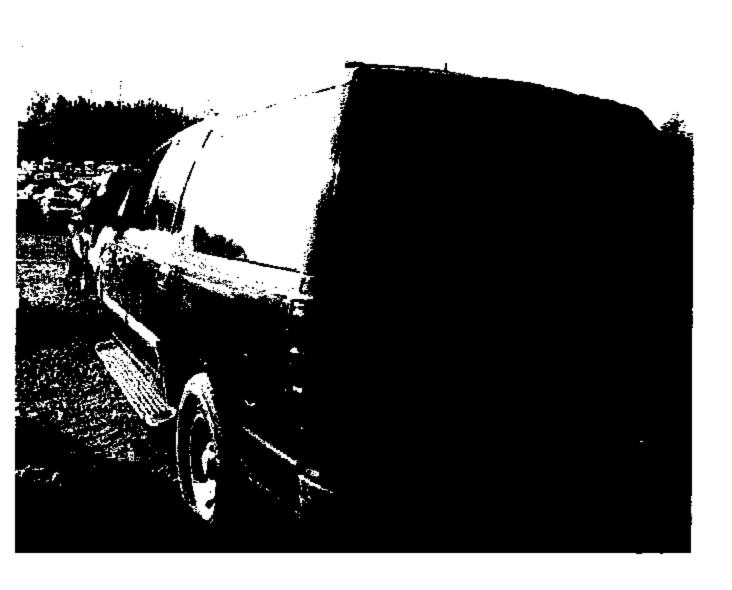
| Claim Number: Name of Insured:   |
|--|
| Address:Huntington, WV   |
| Home Phone   |
| Name/Address of Employe  |
| Driver's License 4: DOB Social Secucios & Marital Status:  |
|  |
| Date Of Fire 12-54-49 Tune: 3:50 AM: (PM) Location: # 64 &   |
| Was the vehicle occupied immediately prior to the fire? Yes [X] No [ ] Was the vehicle locked? Yes [ ] No [X]  |
| Were the windows rolled up tightly? Yes [ ] No [ ]   |
| What was the temperature outside when the fire occurred? 45 What color was the smoke? What was   |
| In what area of the car did the fire stant? Engine Congressions  |
| Ef Occupied  |
| Did you small or use the fire first? Jan Which side of the vehicle did you exit from? Trate!   |
| Did you leave the door open? Yes [ ] No [X] Did you remove the key from the ignition? Yes [ ] No [X]   |
| Did you raise the bood? Yes [Y] No [ ] Was the gas cap removed? Yes [ ] No [Y]   |
| How long did you remain at the scene?   how did you get home?  |
| Name/Address of Witness(cs): ABA & Kasaka  |
|  |
| Was the fire reported to the police? You M Date: Time: AM [ ] PM [ ] By Wham?  |
| Name/Address of Fire Dept.: Kerous Fire Out ( Gy)  |
| Did they make a report? Yes [X] No [ ] Telaphone Number: 45 3 - 1601   |
| If repairable, do you wish to have the vehicle repaired? Yes [ ] No [ ]  |
| The state of the s |
| VEHICLE EQUIPMENT (Check if vehicle had my of the following:)  |
| [ ] Power Windows [ ] Till Wheel [ ] 4 Wheel Drive [ ] Automatic Trans [ ] 6 Cylinder  |
| [V] Power Steering [] Lasther Seats [] AM [] 3 Speed [V] 8 Cylinder  |
| [ ] Power Braket [ ] Vinyt Sents [ ] AM/FM [ ] 4 Speed [ ] Other   |
| [ //Power Locks [ ] Yelour Scats [ ] AM/FM Stereo [ ] 5 Speed [ ] [   Power Scats [ ] Mag Wheels [ // AM/FM Stereo Tape [ ] Customized (self) [ ]  |
|  |
| [ ] Cruise Control [ ] T-top/Suta roof [ ] Customized (self) [ ] Customized factory [ ] [ ] Xir Conditioning [ ] Viryl Roof [ ] Custom factory [ ] 4 Cylinder [ ]  |
| [Lackin Conditioning [ ] Viryl Roof [ ] Contorn Sectory [ ] 4 Cylinder [ ]   |
| VEHICLE CONDITIONOTHER DISTINGUISHING PEATURES   |
| (Fair P, Good G, Excellent E) Point Transmission (Dents, decals, trailer hitch, interior)  |
| Engine Body E Other: Cath Jakerson, trader bach  |
| Name/Address of Service Station Garage: And Care Food Bank sark  |
| Who performs routine maintenance service? Self- **** Date last serviced: ?   |
| Who performs State MV Inspection? Date that inspected.   |
| River Citas Trees  |
| Dete car purchased: 11/02 New: Used: Purchase Price: \$ 18,100 (compley tous for Alle)   |
| Trade-in Cur: Surveys Allowance 5 April 19/1005  |
| Seller Dester/Individual (include address):  |
| How did you learn our was for sale? C.   |
| Mileage at time of purchase & - Mileago at time of lose (fire): 4 mileago at time  |
| Work one and for? Push Charles If financed name and address of Pinance Community   |
| 14.5. 1. 10 Box 7247 Holom Ry 4/165  |
| Account #: 43937499630   Bulance Due: \$15,443.39 Loan Terius: Months at \$ 463.43   |
|  |
| Initials of Insured Date _ \ -\ 5-0 \( 4 \)  |
|  |
| Izitiala of Notary Date 1/15/04  |
| ·  |

| How long? Are key         | s in your possession? Yes [ ] No [2-]            | VI  |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Do you have any other a   | m insurance? Yes [ ] No [ ] If yes, Policy #     | :   |
| Name of Insurance Cong    | 1 h- h-* [                                       |   |
| I even that the informati | on contained in the above statement is complete, | true and correct under the panelty of perjury.                                  |
| Detc!-  ≤~-0Y             | Signstore of Insured                             |   |
| State of Wast             | busines)   |   |
|                           | ) \$5  |   |
| County of Ole             | <u>//</u>  |   |
| Subscribed and aworn to   | in my presence this                              | Lang , 20 04.   |
| Nothey                    | Nug  | Calcul Seal Surte of West Virginia. Natury Public Natury Public                 |
| O PAR 18-5 101-           | ETPIRES Aucust 13, 2013                          | 730 8th Ann<br>Physingson, WY 26701-3718<br>bit commission expires Aug 15, 2013 |















# RECEIVED APR 2 200



4260 Hoover Road, Suite B \* OH 20 GROV \* Grove City, OH 43123

March 30, 2004

FORD MOTOR CREDIT ATTN: SHAWN NORTON PARKLANE TOWERS WEST PARKLANE BLVD SINTE 300 DEARBORN, MI 48126-2568

445/05

OUR INSURED:
OUR CLAIM NUMBER:
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 12-30-2003
AMOUNT: \$18095.00

PENDING COVERAGES : sodetermined

Our insured's property was changed by fire on the above date. Our investigation indicates that your company may be remonsible for these damages.

Nationwide has point for these damages, which gives us the right to recover the full amount of the loss from the responsible party.

The vehicle involved in the loss is a 2000 Ford Expedition, VIN #1FMPU16L4YL The vehicle is currently being held at our salvage yard. We would like to give you the opportunity to inspect these demages and will hold the salvage for 10 days to allow you to do so.

Please contact our Special Investigator, Bub Sulfivan, at 304-562-1684 for more details and to schedule and appointment to meet and inspect the vehicle.

If you have entomobile, homeowner, or say other insurance that will cover this claim, please give us the mans of your insurance company and we will make our claim to them. We consider the amount listed above to be payment in full, but will promptly sotify you if we insur any additional expenses.

Phease complete the bottom portion of this letter and return it within (10) days. If you have automobile insurance we will make our claim directly to them. If you do not have any insurance, please check the appropriate box below. If full payment is not exclosed you will be contacted.

Thank you for your immediate attention in this matter.

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY Kim Arnett Claims Department 1-(800)303-0939 Ext. 6963

Please provide us with the information below and return this letter.

| Name of insurance company                      | Phone No      |  |
|--|---------------|--|
| Address  | Agent Name    |  |
| Policyholder's Name                            | Policy Number |  |
| 1 am not insured, my full payment is enclosed. |               |  |
| I san not immred. My social security number is | Phone No      |  |
| Signed:  |               |  |



# RECEIVED ED - 3 2004



November 26, 2004

Ford Motor Company Parklane Towers West, Suite 300 Three Parklane Blvd. Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

我已经接到了。

DEC 0 2 2004

RE

Claim Number:

Date of Loss:

Our Insured: Loss Location: October 24, 2004

McKinney, TX

Dear Sirs:

The Hartford is currently investigating a claim for damages at our insured's home. This investigation indicates the cause is due to a vehicle fire. The nature of the fire:

The insured's truck was parked in the garage. It ignited under the hood causing fire damage to the garage and smoke damage throughout the home.

The Hartford is placing your company on notice of this vehicle defect and we are asserting our legal right to seek reimbursement from your company.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at the telephone number listed below.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ochoa

Claim Representative

972-238-5633

P.O. Box 830126

Richardson, TX 75083-0126

The Hartford

-10/24/04 TX MCK-MARY1 MCK-MARY1 MCK-MARY1

San Antonio Personal Lines Chains Service Center PO Box [25]1. San Antonia, TX 78205 Toll Free #00 236 0398

## VINCENT N. MELCHIORRE ATTORNEY AT LAW

1518 WALNUT STREET SUITE 806 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102 (215) 985-1414 FAX: (215) 985-9477

September 3, 2002

Ford Motor Company Parklane Towers West Suite 300 Three Parklane Blvd. Dearborn, MI 48126-2568 SEP - 5 7002

ATTN:

Andrew Chabot

Claims Analyst

RE:

Our Client:

Your Product:

2000 FORD F-Meries

Date of Accident: 7/30/02

Dear Mr. Chabot:

This office represents in connection with injuries he suffered on the above referenced date, as a result of a fire in the engine compartment of Ford F 150 truck owned by which occurred on the above referenced date. It is our understanding that you are handling this fite. Should this information be incorrect, please advise of the adjuster who is now assigned to this claim.

We are currently gathering information concerning the sum injuries. When the sume are received we will forward a copy to you.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICE OF VINCENT N. MELCHIORRE

Charles A DiFerrie



## BUTRUS KHOSHBIN WILSON VOGT, LLP

PARK CREEK PLACE 3625 NORTH HALL STREET, SUITE 740 DALLAS, TEXAS 75219

TELEPHONE (214) 2(9-1170 \* FACSIMILE (214) 219-1171

SHAIN KHOSEÐJIN ORECT DIAL (214) 219-1161 DIRBCT E-MAIL skhoshbin@birwlew.com

CHARLOTTE OFFICE 11520 N. Community House Rand Charlotte, NC 28277

October 17, 2002

### <u>YIA FACSIMILE (313) 845-9229</u> AND CMRRR 7001 0320 0004 4285 £528

Ford Motor Company
ATTENTION: Office of the General Counsel
Parklane Towers West
Suite 300
Three Parklane Boulevard
Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2568

RE: Fire at the residence of

POR PROPERTY AND STATE OF SALL ALCOURAGE.

Dear Sir or Madam:

Butrus Khoshbin Wilson Vogt, LLP is investigating the fire which occurred a loneshoro, Arkansas ("the premises"), on or about October 1, 2002. The fire originated in 2000 Ford F-150 truck (VIN 1FTRX18L7Y) Ford Motor Company ("Ford" or "you") manufactured and designed the truck, which caught fire in the garage. This caused damage to the home and to personal belongings.

If you have liability insurance, please notify your insurance agent or broker of this matter immediately. If you do not have liability insurance, or if any insurance carrier is operating under a reservation of rights, please notify the undersigned in writing of that fact immediately. Moreover, if you know of anyone else that we should put on notice, please let us know immediately.

Please be advised that on <u>Friday, November 1, 2002, beginning at 10:00 a.m.</u>, you and/or your representatives or investigators are invited to inspect the loss, photograph same, take physical measurements and make recommendations as to the preservation of evidence. On or soon after November 1, 2002, the building and/or any portions or contents thereof, which are not preserved, may be demolished and/or discarded. If you do not plan to attend the inspection on November 1, 2002, <u>please advise me in writing before 2:00 p.m. CST on October 24, 2002</u>.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**BUTRUS KHOSHBIN WILSON VOGT, LLP** 

S. A. KHOSHBIN

SAK/ee

#### NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

October 4, 2002

Ford Motor Company Attn: General Counsel Park Lane Towers West, Suite 300 3 Park Lane Blvd Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

RE: Nationwide Insurance Claim

To Whom It May Concern:

On 10/01/02, parked his 2000 Ford F150, VIN 1FTRX18L7YN the parked his garage at his residence. About one hour later he smelled something burning, looked in his garage and saw flames coming from the front wheel well and bood of the vehicle. The vehicle appears to be a total loss and there is approximately \$60,000 additional damage to property.

Preliminary observations indicate that the vehicle engine compartment is the origin of the fire. Therefore, a Cause and Origin Investigation has been scheduled for 10:00 AM, 10/15/02, at the above cited residence.

Please advise if you wish to participate in this examination. You can contact me at the below listed telephone number or my cellular telephone number, 901-277-3280.

Sincerely,

Don Patterson

Special Investigative Unit

13000 CANTREL RD • LITTLE ROCK, AR • 72223 PHONE: 800-276 6380, EXT. 719 • FAX: 501-223-1749





This State Farm insured vehicle was involved in a total fire loss on the date listed above. We settled a claim with our insured in the amount of \$21,101.00 which includes our insured's deductible.

Our investigation revealed the cause of the loss was due to the manufacturers defect under the hood of the vehicle resulting in a fire. The vehicle evidence is focated at **Southern Auto Salvage** in Memphis, TN and is set to be disposed of by auction. You may reach them at (800)722-2858. The stock number is 33,361.

Enclosed is proof of our payments to the insured and to Ford Motor Credit of which we are seeking reimbursement. You may contact me at (662)680-3047 for any additional questions you might have.

Please consider this letter as our demand to Ford Motor Company for reimbursement of \$21,101.00.

Sincerely

Tonyá Šmlth Claim Specialist

Tupeio Claim Specialist

(662) 680-3047

20 FB to D 1920R3





Production Property and Consulty Insurance Company
5/90 Widewaters Parkson, PO Box 689, Dewatt NY 13214 (fills)
Tel 215 A66 1120 ppg 33 4 2005 Feb 2005

Tel 315 445-1120, 800 43 (1895) Fair (1894) 5293

December 2

Ford Motors Corp
Office of the General Counsel
Parklane Towers West, Suite 400
3 Parklane Blvd
Dearborn, Michigan 48126

Claim number:

Insured:

Claimant: Ford Motors -engine fire

Your claim number:

Subro amount: \$ total loss - tigures pending

Date of loss: 11/14/01

Dear Sirs:

This letter will serve to put you on notice of a subrogation claim on behalf of our insured.

She purchased the 2001 Ford F150 pickup on 11/12/01 and had an engine fire on 11/14/01 which totaled the vehicle out. Earlier that day, the "check engine" light did come on and the vehicle was serviced by Tri-County Ford-Mercury in Areade, New York.

Please call to discuss this claim as I was advised that a representative from Ford Motors also inspected the vehicle as welf.

I can be reached at 315-445-5259 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:45pm.

Thank you for your prompt reply to this request.

Sincerely,

tigate in the second

Teresa Songer .

Sr Claims Representative

Aliatete Insurance Company 16700 East Hardy, Suite A Kouston, TX 77482

Phone Number: 281-618-5322

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

Juno 23, 2004

Ford Motor Company - General Counsel's Office

3 Parklane Blvd, Ste PTW300

Dearborn, MI 48126 Attn: Shawn Norton

RECEIVED JUNE 2 4 2004

RE:

Our Claim Number:

Our Insured:

Vehicle: 2000 Ford F-150 Super Cab Truck

VIN: 1FTZX1723Y

Date of Loss: 66/16/04

Loss Location:

Amount of loss: Pending

FORD MOTOR COMPANY RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Norton:

Please accept this letter as notice to your company of a claim for subrogation. Our policyholder sustained fire damage to the above referenced vehicle. The damages are possibly linked to the speed control deactivation switch.

Paul Carper of Verity Forensic Engineering, LLC, has completed initial inspection. Please contact him at 281-548-3561 to make arrangements for a joint inspection. The vehicle is currently located a

If any further information is needed, I can be reached at 281-518-5322.

Sincerely,

Pat Gonzales

Staff Claim Service Adjuster

Allstate Insurance Claim Service Organization

116/04 150 1X 100 F 150





Sarsh K. Armstrong ana ki<del>nang séjaluhnan</del> law.com

かれ

301 Office Center Dave Suize 300 Fr. Washington Pargylden 1905 c p4.7(3) 383 11 11 F (215) 28 F 1188

Офия из Fr. Westington, PA West Bertin, Ni New York, NY (8000) 3 9 Harr

November 10, 2004

Shawn L. Norton Ford Motor Company Parklane Towers West, Suite 300 Three Parklane Boulevard Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Re:

Lititz Mutual Insuced: Clinton E. Sparlin

Lititz Mutual Claim No.:

Date of Loss: October 27, 2004

Loss Location: 639 Overspin Drive, Winter Park, FL.

Dear Ms. Norton:

Please he advised that we have been retained by Lititz Mutual Insurance Company, the property in connection with the above referenced matter. On October 27, 2004, a fire damaged the insured's vehicle and residence while parked in the driveway of his residence. According to our investigation, this fire originated within the engine compartment of a 2000 Ford Expedition. Under the circumstances, Ford may be responsible for the damages suffered by Lititz's insured. As such, we are placing you on notice of this potential claim.

State Farm Insurance Company, the insurance company for the vehicle, is maintaining the vehicle in question in order to provide your company and/or representatives an opportunity to inspect the scene. You should immediately notify your company's liability insurance carrier of this loss. If a representative of your company and/or a representative of its liability insurance company wish to inspect the scene, please immediately give us a call so that such an inspection can be arranged.

We look forward to hearing from a representative of your company with respect to inspecting the fire scene.

Very truly yours,

Sarah K. Armstrong

SKA:ida

cc:

Harry Wagner, Claims Administrator (Via Email Only)

JINA Skill avoidable of Frank Lat

September 28, 2004

NSUMER AFFAIRS

FORD CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP CENTER P.O. BOX 6248 DEARBORN, MI 48126

4 (U) -5 A9:28

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED ARTICLE NUMBER: <u>7003 3110 0005 5028 5684</u>

September 28, 2004

#### NOTICE OF SUBROGATION

Insured:
Policy Number
Claim Number:
Date of Loss: 8/21/04

ROCENED

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

OCT 0 5 2004

Dear Sirs,

Making Lores

We are the authorized representatives of <u>NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY</u> in the above-captioned matter.

Our investigation indicates that you may be responsible for damages to the insured property, which we have been called upon to pay on our insured's behalf under the above-referenced policy. Damages are a direct result of fire from within the engine compartment the 2000 Ford F-150, VIN#2FTRX07L74C

We are placing you on notice of our subrogation rights. Please preserved the vehicle until all subrogation claims are exhausted. We request that you do not destroy the physical evidence.

Under the terms of this policy, we have the right of subrogation.

Please be advised that *Florida Statute 627.7264* require that you provide us with information concerning your liability insurance coverage upon written request from us. This information is to include the following: (a) the name of your insurance carrier; (b) the name of each insured on your policy, (c) the limits of liability coverage, and (d) a copy of the insurance policy and the declarations page. The statute requires that this information be provided to us within 30 days of this written request.

Sincerely,

Bill Harbour, Claims Adjuster

B.M. Shold

CC:

JEANCIUS PIERRE



## IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

| Sardina, Ohi  Plaintiff.  | )<br>)<br>)<br>)<br>) | A0005660       | COPY FILED CLERK OF COURTS HAMILTON COUNTS OCT 2 3 2000 MASS CHESTLE COURTS CHESTLE |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|---|
| vs.   | ) No.                 | UUUUUUU        |   |
| FORD MOTOR COMPANY<br>c/a CT Corporation Systems, Reg. Agent<br>1300 East 9th Street<br>Cleveland, Ohio 44114 | )<br>) JUR<br>)<br>)  | Y DEMAND ENDOR | ISED HEREON   |
| Defendant   | )                     |                |   |

#### COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff

We MOSS, LTD., and for her complaint against Defendant, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, alleges and affirmatively states as follows:

# **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff, Plaintiff"), is an individual who was at all times relevant hereto residing in the State of Ohio.
- 2. Defendant, FORD MOTOR COMPANY ("Manufacturer"), is a foreign corporation authorized to do business in the State of Ohio, County of Hamilton, and is engaged in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of the Plaintiff's motor vehicle and related equipment and services. Manufacturer is also in the business of marketing, supplying and seiling written warranties to the public at large through a system of authorized dealerships, including Beechmont Ford, Inc. ("Dealer"). Manufacturer does business in all counties of the State of Ohio including Hamilton County.

### BACKGROUND

- 3. On or about December 13, 1999, Plaintiff leased from Seller a 2000 Ford F150 Pickup ("Pickup"), manufactured and/or distrubuted by Manufacturer, Vehicle Identification Number 1FTZX1727Y? The selected in the document(s) attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- The price of the Pickup, including certain collateral charges, such as registration charges, document fees, sales tax, and finance charges, totaled more than \$10,000.00.
- Plaintiff avers that as a result of manufacturing defects, the Pickup cannot be utilized for personal, family and household use as was intended by Plaintiff at the time of its acquisition.
- 6. In consideration for the lease of the Pickup, Manufacturer issued and supplied to Plaintiff several written warranties, including a three (3) year or thirty-six thousand (36,000) mile "bumper-to-bumper" warranty.
- On or about December 13, 1999, Plaintiff took possession of the Pickup and shortly thereafter experienced the defect listed below which substantially impaired the use, value and/or safety of the Pickup.
- The nonconformity described below violated the implied warranties issued to Plaintiff by Manufacturer.
  - The Pickup's defect and nonconformity, included but were not limited to:
    - A defective ignition system which caused the vehicle to catch fire and become completely destroyed.
- 10. Plaintiff has justifiably lost confidence in the Pickup's safety and reliability, and said nonconformity has substantially impaired the use, value and/or safety of the Pickup to

#### Plaintiff.

- Said nonconformity could not reasonably have been discovered by Plaintiff prior to Plaintiff's acceptance of the Pickup.
- 12. As a result of this defect, Plaintiff revoked her acceptance of the Pickup in writing on September 25, 2000. A copy of the revocation of acceptance letter is attached and labeled as Plaintiff's Exhibit B.
- 13. At the time of revocation, the Pickup was in substantially the same condition as at delivery except for damage caused by its own nonconformity and ordinary wear and tear.
- 14. Manufacturer has refused Plaintiff's revocation of acceptance, and has refused to provide Plaintiff with the remedies to which Plaintiff is entitled.
- 15. The Pickup remains in a defective and unmerchantable condition, and continues to exhibit the above mentioned defect which substantially impairs its use, value and/or safety.
- 16. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be financially damaged due to Manufacturer's failure to comply with its warranty.

# COUNT I BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY PURSUANT TO THE MAGNUSON-MOSS WARRANTY ACT

- 17. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference as though fully set forth herein, all paragraphs of this Complaint set forth above.
- 18. The Pickup leased by Plaintiff was subject to an implied warranty of merchantability as defined in 15 U.S.C. §2301(7) running from the Manufacturer to Plaintiff herein.
  - 19. Manufacturer is a supplier of consumer goods as a "person" engaged in the

business of making a consumer product directly or indirectly available to Plaintiff.

- Manufacturer is a warrantor of consumer goods as a "person" who is or may be obligated under an implied warranty.
- Manufacturer is prohibited from disclaiming or modifying any implied warranty
   when making a written warranty to the consumer.
- 21. Plaintiff's Pickup was impliedly warranted to be substantially free of defects and nonconformities in both material and workmanship, and thereby fit for the ordinary purpose for which the Pickup was intended.
- 22. The above-described defect and nonconformity present in the Pickup render the Pickup unmerchantable, unsafe, and thereby not fit for the ordinary and essential purpose for which the Pickup was intended, as represented by Manufacturer.
- 23. As a result of the breaches of implied warranty by Manufacturer. Plaintiff is without the reasonable value of the Pickup and Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer various damages, including attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, programmer prays for judgment against Manufacturer as follows:

- Return of all monies paid or diminution in value of the Pickup, and all
  incidental and consequential damages incurred, including, but not limited
  to, all finance charges incurred;
- All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other fees incurred by Plaintiff; and
- c. Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and appropriate.

#### JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues in this action, except for any issues relating to

the amount of attorneys' fees and litigation costs awarded should Plaintiff prevail in this action.

Respectfully Submitted, REBECCA BERRY

By:

Attorney for Plaintiff

David B. Levin
Ohio Registration No. 0059340
Ronna Lucas
Ohio Registration No. 0063304
Herbert Nussle
Ohio Registration No. 0063551
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Krohn & Moss, Ltd. 4403 St. Clair Avenue Cleveland Ohio 44103

Mailing Address: 120 W. Madison Street, 10th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 578-9428

(888) 695-3666

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Chin, Lutima Diak (888) 695-3666 (Nia, Lutima Fax (800) 935-2593

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September 25, 2000

Ma. Michelle K. Hull Ford Motor Company 16800 Executive Plaza Drive MD# 3NE-B Dearborn Michigan 48126-4207 sia facsimila (313) 845-5555

Rebocca A. Berry v. Ford Motor Company

Vehicle:

2000 Ford F150 Pickup

1F77X1727YN

VIN:

Oue File No.:

Dear Ma. Hull:

Please he advised that this office represents the above-named individual regarding claims against your company pursuant to the Ohio Lemon Lev (Motor Vehicles with Warranty Nonconformities Act) and/or the Federal Magnuson-Mose Warranty Act with regard to the above-listed vehicle. Please direct all future contacts and correspondence to the office listed above.

HAVING BEEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF OUR REPRESENTATION, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED NOT TO CONTACT OUR CLIENT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. DIRECT ALL INOUIRIES TO THIS OFFICE. IF YOU FAIL TO ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS DIRECTIVE, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF WILL BE SOUGHT AGAINST YOU.

IN ADDITION, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED OF OUR ATTORNEYS' LIEN.

There are numerous defects and nonconformities present in my client's automobile for which relief is sought, and numerous attempts to repair the vehicle have been unsuccessful. There were also numerous violations of both Federal and State law in connection with the delivery and/or repair of the aforementioned vehicle. The primary nonconformities and violations include, but are not limited to a

defective ignition as evidenced by a fire that destroyed the vehicle and any additional complaints actually made, whether contained on your company's invoices or otherwise.

The nonconformities listed above constitute a substantial impairment of the use, value and safety of the vehicle. Because of the incodinate amount of repairs within the applicable warranty period, my client has justifiably lost confidence in the vehicle. As one court has stated:

For a majority of people the purchase of a new car is a major investment, rationalized by the peace of mind that flows from its dependability and safety. Once their faith is shaken, the values loses not only its real value in their eyes, but becomes an instrument whose integrity is substantially impaired and whose operation is fraught with apprehension.

Zabriskie Chevrolet, Inc. v. Smith

Concurring the amount of grief a person need take with a vehicle, one court expressed the consumers lament in the following manner:

There comes a time when enough is enough - when an automobile purchaser, after having to take his car into the shop for repairs an inordinate number of times and experiencing all of the attendant inconvenience, is entitled to say, "That's all," and revoke, notwithstanding the celler's repeated good faith efforts to fix the car. Rester v. Morrow.

My olient's repair history clearly shows there was a breach of the written warranty "based upon the generally accepted rule that an unsuccessful effort to remedy defects found to unist cenders the warrantor liable; the buyer is not bound to allow him the opportunity or permit him to tinker with the article indefinitely in the hope that it may ultimately be made to comply with the warranty."

Kore v. Chevrolet Motor Division.

Therefore, you are hersby notified that my client is revoking her acceptance of this vehicle. She has directed us to demand the cancellation of the contracts and the return of all hunds paid towards this vehicle, including all collateral charges, firance charges, and incidental damages, pursuant to Section 1345.72(B) of the Ohio Revised Code.

To avoid any litigation, my client merely requests a refund for the defective product, plus payment of her attorneys fees pursuant to the fee-shifting provisions of the Ohio Lamon Law and the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act. Our attorneys' fees are minimal at this stage and we would prefer to resolve this matter without the need for any more time spent on our part or on the part of your attorneys. A great dual of time, money and offert sould be saved by all parties involved with a quick resolution of this claim.

Accordingly, if you wish to resolve this matter amicably, please feel free to contact my office. If the matter has not been made within 21 days from the date of this letter, suit will be filled.

Sincerely,

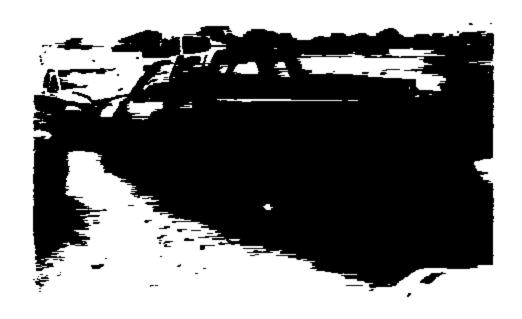
Rooma Lucas Attorney at Law

RSL/ilo

cc: Ma. Rebecca A. Berry



Figure No. 2 shows a view of the left side of the subject vehicle as seen from the resr. Fire damage mitigated toward the rear of the vehicle, and was much more concentrated toward the passenger compartment. The front tires were involved in the fire, while the rear tires were predominantly intact with little sign of fire damage.



Page 4

Figures No. 3 and 4 show right side views of the subject vehicle. Examination of the right side revealed similar burn patterns to that of the left side of the vehicle. All indications were that both doors were closed at the time of the fire. This was confirmed by the falldown debris that was found on the floor near the door edge and rocker panel. The falldown debris was concentrated with a cleer barrier where the door contacted it. This showed that both doors were closed. During my examination, I found substantial glass fragments at and around the interior of the vehicle on both the left and right sides. The glass fragments were carboned on one side, giving indication that they were up and in place at the time the fire erupted.





Figure No. 5 shows a forward view of the subject vehicle. Examination of the forward portion of the vehicle, as well as the engine compartment revealed directional burn patterns emitting from the passenger compartment into the engine compartment. It should be noted that both front tires became involved in the fire. This normally takes place during combustible debris falldown during the fire's progression, as well as the ignition of liquid combustibles in the engine compartment, such as coolant, power steering fluid, transmission fluid and/or motor oil, in some cases.

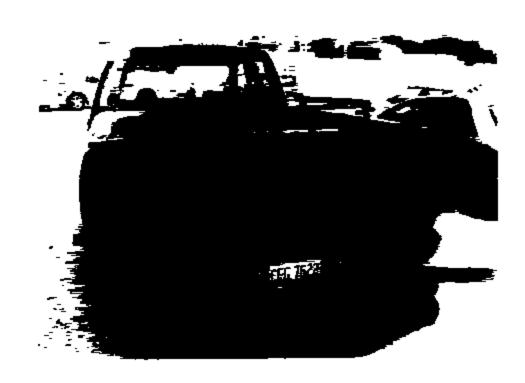


FIGURE #5

Figure No. 6 shows a view of the right side of the vehicle at and around the rear bed area. Once again, the right rear tire was still inflated, showing minimal damage as a result of the fire. Examination of the rear cab area revealed directional burning patterns consistent with a fire breaching the rear window, and traveling in a typical upward and outward fashion. The fire damage in the cab area mitigated toward the rear of the vehicle, which would be consistent with a passenger compartment fire.



Figure No. 7 shows a view of the reer tail gate area. Minimal damage from the fire was present on the rear tail gate. The left light was still completely intact, while the right light did show some signs of melting, although was still in place. License Plate No. CEG 7622 can be used as a secondary source of identification.



Figures No. 8 and 9 show views of the bed of the vehicle. Examination of the interior bed revealed patterns consistent with fire breaching from the passenger compartment into the bed of the truck.



FIGURE #8



Figures No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 show various views of the engine and engine compartment. Examination of the engine compartment revealed soft metal melting from the rear portion of the engine toward the front. The soft metal upper intake was uniformly burned in the mid and front portions, while substantially more burned and destroyed in the rear portion. All examination of the engine compartment indicated the fire erupted within the passenger compartment, breaching the bulkhead, and traveling into the engine compartment of the vehicle. Also note the rocker cover on the right side of the engine was destroyed as a result of the fire. This would show a higher fuel load and heat concentration was present on the right side of the engine for a longer period of time as compared to the left side of the engine. Areas available for bulkhead breach are also more significant in this area as compared to the left side of the vehicle.





FIGURE #11



FIGURE #12

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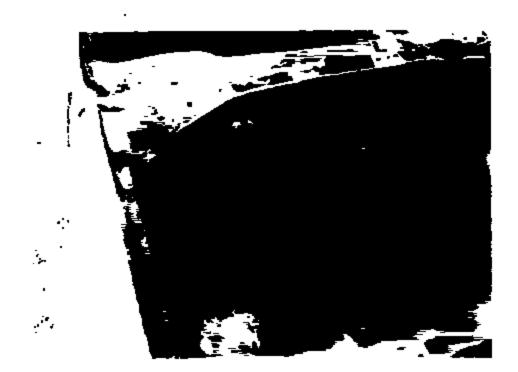


FIGURE #13

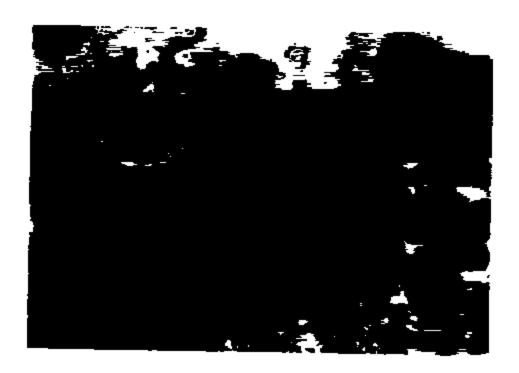


FIGURE #14

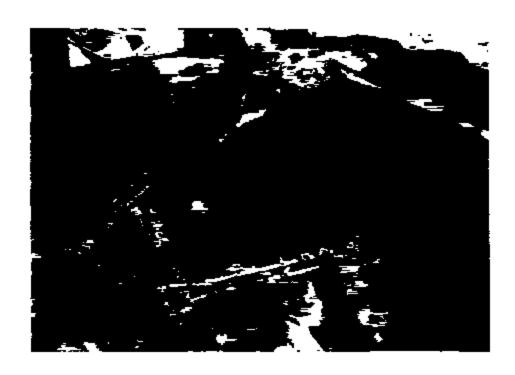


FIGURE #15

Figure No. 16 shows a view of the right side engine compartment destruction as seen from the front of the vehicle toward the bulkhead. Once again, the burn pattern indicates much more significant melting in the rear portion of the engine and mitigating toward the forward portion of the vehicle. This leaves a bulkhead toward the front of the vehicle direction of burn. All indications are that the fire originated in the passenger compartment, traveling into the engine compartment.



At this time, I began an examination of the passenger compartment of the vehicle. The passenger compartment suffered the worst devastation resulting from the fire. Examination of the passenger compartment revealed the seats were totally consumed, as was the dashboard of the vehicle. Heavy damage in the mid and lower sections of the compartment, including that of some of the carpeting, was also present. During my examination of the passenger compartment, I did note glass fragments consistent with the windows being in the upright position at the incipient stages of the fire. This could be determined by the carbon on the one side of the glass as it fell to the ground. I found no evidence that the vehicle was tampered with in any way to intentionally set the fire. No evidence of an incendiary fire being set in the passenger compartment, engine compartment or bed of the truck was present. Figure No. 17 shows a view of the forward passenger compartment as seen from the right door opening. Examination revealed no evidence of aftermarket component installation. Factory components, such as the radio, were still found, although in a damaged state.



Figures No. 18 and 19 show the left side door in the open position, as well as the rocker molding. Once again, the door was closed at the time of the fire's eruption. The rocker molding was still primarily intact. A clear line of demarcation of melted material was present at the area in which the door was stationary and the floorboard of the vehicle.

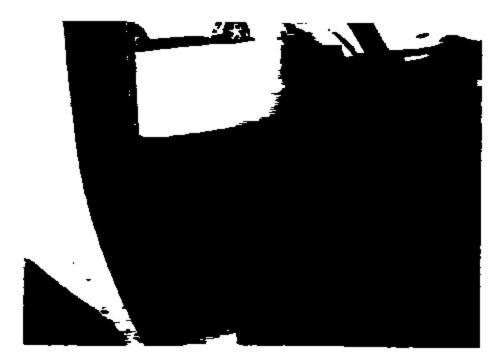


FIGURE #18



1050 17

Figure No. 20 shows a view of the left forward passenger compartment. The dashboard in the compartment was completely destroyed. Many of the destroyed remnants were situated on the floorboard in both driver and passenger sides of the vehicle.

Taking into the consideration that the vehicle was not in operation for several hours, the possibility of a fluid leak contacting a hot surface in the engine compartment causing the fire was eliminated. No aurfaces would sustain heat for that prolonged amount of time to initiate a fire. The possible cause of the fire being a firel leak was also eliminated due to the lack of available ignition sources. During the examination of the vehicle, it was determined that the fire originated in the passenger compartment and spread into the engine and bed of the truck. Components that were suspect of this fire should be considered electrical components. During the examination of the passenger compartment of the vehicle. electrical components were examined carefully for signs of beading and/or discoloration that may be consistent with an electrical failure, which, in turn, caused the fire. Examination of the electrical components in the engine compartment was also performed. During this examination, I did find the positive battery cable lying directly against a portion of the engine, which was grounded. The battery and cable did not bead or melt through at the point of contact. This would give indication that the battery was either substantially drained or fire damaged prior to this cable coming in contact with the grounded engine. This would further indicate that the fire crupted in the passenger compartment, and that if an electrical fire had taken place, the battery was significantly discharged prior to the cable coming in contact with the grounded engine.



Figure No. 21 shows a view of the forward passenger compartment as seen from the left door opening. The front scats and padding were completely destroyed in the fire. Directional burn patterns found on some of the soft metal that remained, as well as some of the combustible components that remained, indicated the fire was more significant in the left forward passenger compartment and spread to the right.



Figure No. 22 shows a view of the dashboard area as seen from the right door opening. Burn patterns found on the metal indicated the fire to have traveled from the left side of the vehicle toward the right.

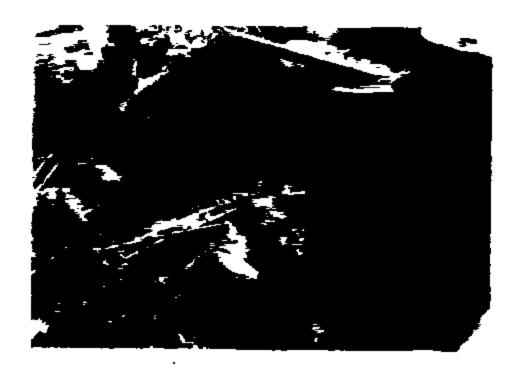


Figure No. 23, again, shows a view of the right side dashboard area at and around the air bag and glove box. Burn patterns were consistent in this area, traveling from left to right.



Figure No. 24 shows a view of the passenger compartment as viewed from the right side windshield opening. Examination of the passenger compartment revealed heavy burn damage throughout the compartment, although it was much more substantial on the left side as compared to the right. This was indicated by burn patterns that were found throughout the passenger compartment, as well as some of the soft metal melting.



Figure No. 25 shows a view of the seat backs. The right side seat back was angled toward the left side of the vehicle, indicating substantially more heat was present on the left side of the vehicle than on the right side pear the door. This, once again, gives a directional burn pattern of left to right.



Figure No. 26 shows a view of the right side seat back and rest portion of the vehicle. During my examination of the rear cab area, I found no evidence of aftermarket component installation.



Figure No. 27 shows a view of the right side seat back and rear cab area. Examination of this area revealed no evidence of aftermarket component installation. Directional burning patterns found on the seat back indicate a left to right fire progression.



Figure No. 28 shows a view of the left side of the passenger compartment as seen from the right front windshield area. The destruction on the left side of the vehicle was slightly more significant than that of the right side of the vehicle. Roof distension was also present at and around this area.



Figure No. 29 shows the cowl of the vehicle. Examination of the cowl revealed a more significant burn pattern toward the left side of the vehicle as compared to the right.



Figure No. 30 shows a view of the forward dashboard area at and around the steering column and center console. During my examination of the this area, I noted that the lower steering column shroud was separated from the dashboard. I also noted an irregular burn pattern on the steering column shroud.



Figure No. 31 shows a view of the steering column shroud that was separated from the column area. An irregular burn pattern was found on this shroud, on both the inner and outer surfaces. The burn pattern was in the approximate area of the Ignition switch. The irregular discoloration in this one significant area of the shroud would give indication an electrical failure had taken place at and around the ignition switch area causing this discoloration and burn pattern.



Figure No. 32 shows the shroud in the upright position.



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Figure No. 33 shows the remainder of the ignition switch wiring. The ignition switch was not located. The ignition switch wiring was located and found to be heavily beaded with some discoloration at and around the beads. This would give indication that extreme electrical activity consistent with an electrical failure and/or short circuit.



FIGURE #33 ·



FIGURE #34



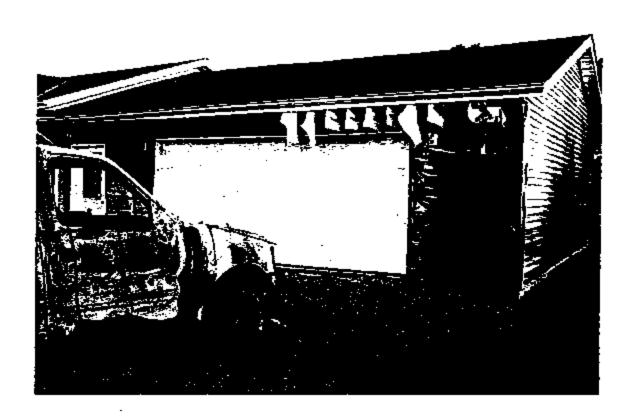
FIGURE #35





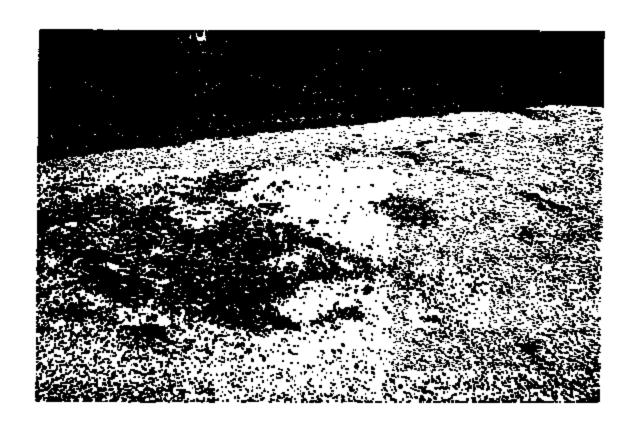








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PEB4-978 C 3732









PE04-078 C 3734









