

EA 05-007  
-008



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

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUN 3 2005

██████████  
██████████  
Dexter, MI ██████████

Re: Tailgate Support Cable Breakage in 2002 Ford Ranger  
VIN 1FTYR14U12██████████; VOQ 10117185

Dear ██████████:

Thank you for contacting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regarding the recent incident in which both tailgate support cables installed in your 2002 Ford Ranger vehicle broke resulting in minor personal injuries.

The Office of Defects Investigation has investigated tailgate support cable breakage that has occurred in model year 1999-2004 General Motors vehicles but has received very few complaints of this problem occurring in Ford vehicles. In order to assist NHTSA to better understand the issue as it relates to Ford vehicles, it would be helpful if you could provide the tailgate cables that you removed from your vehicle in March, 2005 and forward them for NHTSA's inspection and evaluation.

If you are willing to provide this material for our investigation, please package the requested cables, apply the enclosed address label, and mail the package at any convenient United States Post Office or U. S. mailbox. Mailing expenses will be paid by the U. S. Department of Transportation.

Thank you for informing NHTSA of your incident. NHTSA is able to respond to prospective safety issues by learning of issues from consumer reports such as yours.

Sincerely,

Tom Bowman  
Safety Defect Engineer  
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure: NHTSA addressed label



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE  
888-DASH-2-DOT  
888-327-4236