

EA 05-008
-007



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

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

JUN 3 2005

[Redacted]

Norfolk, VA [Redacted]

Re: Tailgate Support Cable Breakage in 2001 Dodge Ram 1500
VIN 3B7HC13Y61[Redacted]; VOQ 10113519

Dear [Redacted]:

Thank you for contacting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) regarding the recent incident in which a single tailgate support cable installed in your 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 vehicle broke and the opposite side cable exhibited a partial fracture.

The Office of Defects Investigation has investigated tailgate support cable breakage that have occurred in model year 1999-2004 General Motors vehicles but the Agency has received very few complaints of this problem occurring in Dodge vehicles. In order to assist NHTSA to better understand the issue as it relates to Dodge 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 Defects Engineer
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure: NHTSA addressed label



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238