













RABNA (SUIDSAU) LAUTUVAL + RAISNA (SURSAU) LIPE + FAIRM (SURSAU) GENERAL 7873 Wast Sagthone Highway, Sax 30400, Lonaing, Michigan, 48909-7900 Phone (517) 323-7000

APRIL 6, 2005

MICKI LYNN, CLAIMS ANALYST FORD MOTOR COMPANY PARKLANE TOWERS WEST SUITE 300 THREE PARKLANE BOULEVARD DEARBORN MI 48126-2568

RE: Our Insured:

Our Claim:

Loss Date:

11-14-01

Damages:

\$8,035.50 1FTDF1764V1

VIN: Model:

1997 Ford F15

I am including the material you requested in your letter of March 24, 2005. We are unable to provide you with a cause and origin report. This matter was closed after payment of the claim. Based on the settlement amount a Cause and Origin examination was would not be cost effective.

After review of the photographs along with the fire report and the insureds statement of the events I am sure you will agree with Farm Bureau Insurance when we suggest that the cause of this fire was the speed control switch. This vehicle fit the description of other fires occurring to Ford Trucks from 1997 and newer that had cruise control.

purchased the vehicle from McDonald Algoriac Ford. Most all the oil changes and service was performed at that facility. The facility is now located in Marine City, Michigan and you may contact them at 810-765-3100. We were not able to obtain the service history and our insured now lives In TN.

The fire occurred in the driveway of our insureds residence of MI.

New Haven,

The VIN is 1FTDF1764VN

Mileage at the time of the loss was 120,000.

The speed control switch is the alleged defect.

The vehicle was a total loss.

The vehicle was sold at a salvage auction on 11-14-01.

www.farmbureauineu/w/xxx-mi.com

Page 2 08J21816-080

Insured indicated there were no additions made to the vehicle after they purchased it.

The engine was not running at the time of the loss.

The keys were not in the ignition.

The date of purchase is noted to be 10-10-97 the date of the Certificate of Title. The mileage at the time of the purchase was 53,119.

Please be advised our insured has submitted information to your office regarding his out of pocket loss. Please do not settle with the without considering our loss as well.

I look forward to receiving a settlement in the amount of \$8,035.00 within the next 30 days.

Sincerely,

M'Lissa Walley

Subrogation Claims Representative

mw

The statement below regards the facts surrounding the fire to my 1997 Ford F-150 that occurred on November 14, 2001. VIN 1FTDF1764VN

to get say for work he want out to State has 91 Explorer he came book in side to get his shaf for work them he left at 4. The am I was still sleeping. I then about 4.40 or 4.45 I was awoke by a souring sound. I get up to see what it was a looked out the window and saw yellow floring. Lights was not save it was so I went to the front window where my douther was sleeping and southat my truck was on few. Then I ran out side to make sure no one else was in teuble. Then I got the garden hose to try to put the fire out and to keep the it away from the house. I then the fire Rep. Came and put it out. When they got there I called my husban and fee came back home. I was so seemed for my life and my doublers life The fire Dep. took a statement from both of us I hope no one clos has to bor them this. We only got had one and half years left to pay on it. We coved 10,400.00 and we only got 19,000.00 from the Insurance. We had to pay 12400.00 in order to pay it off. This is just not right. I must my touck. I look my Truck Plus I looked my Transportation to go to work.

	Date 4-4-65
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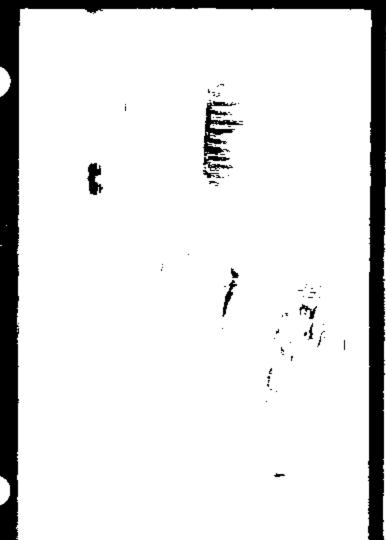


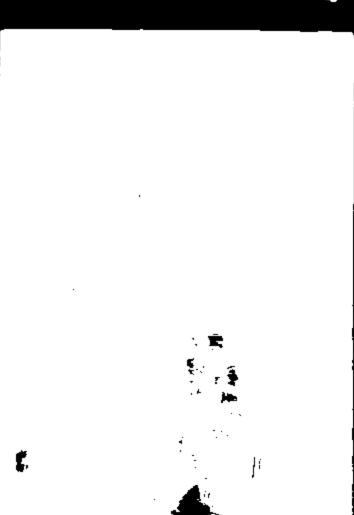
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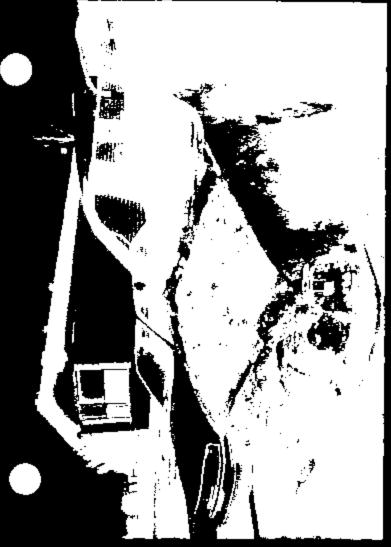




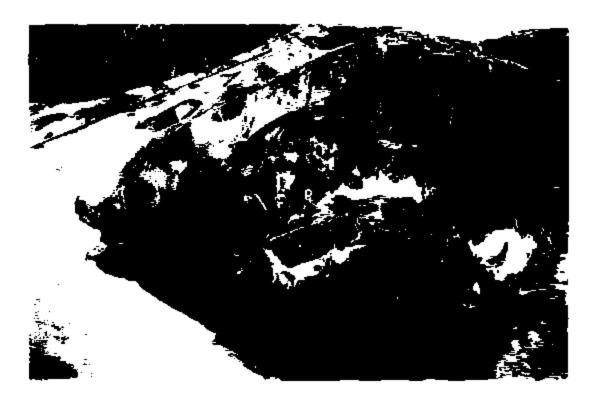


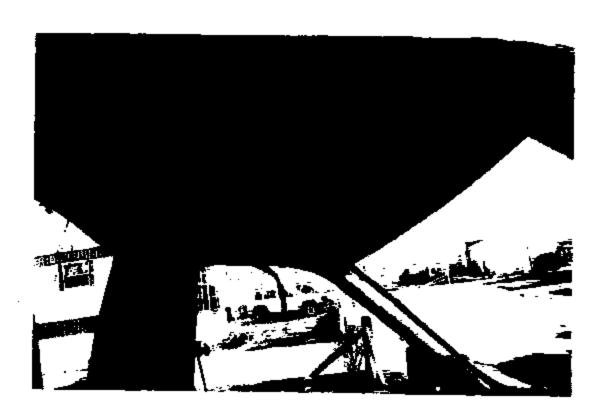
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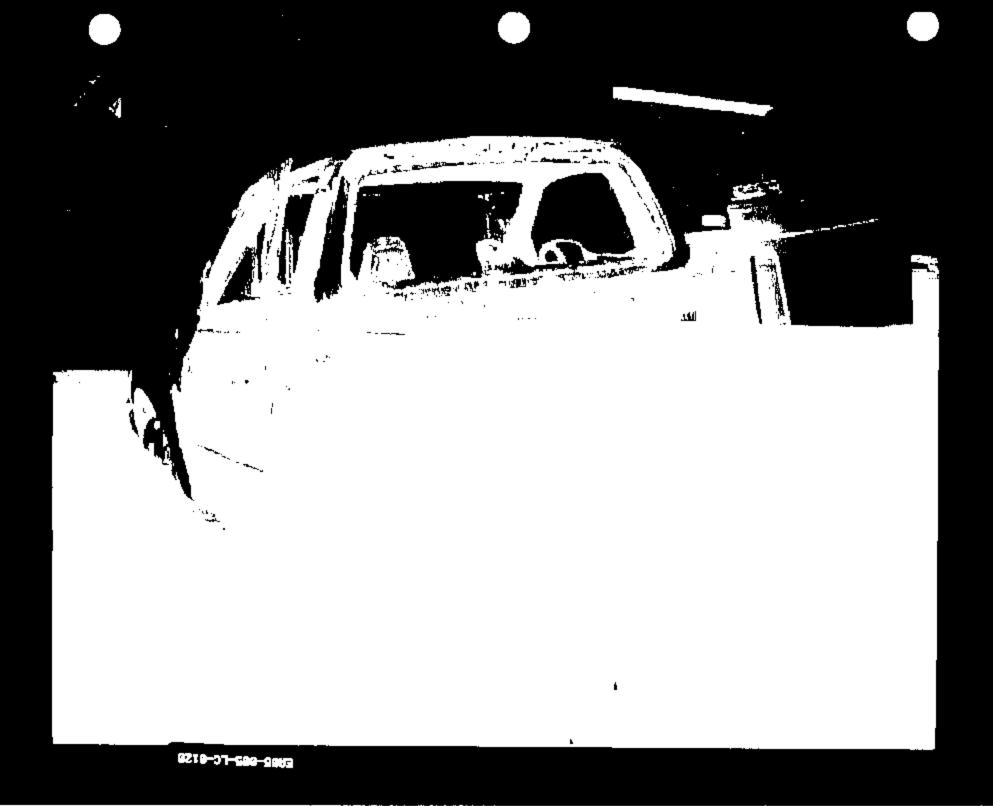












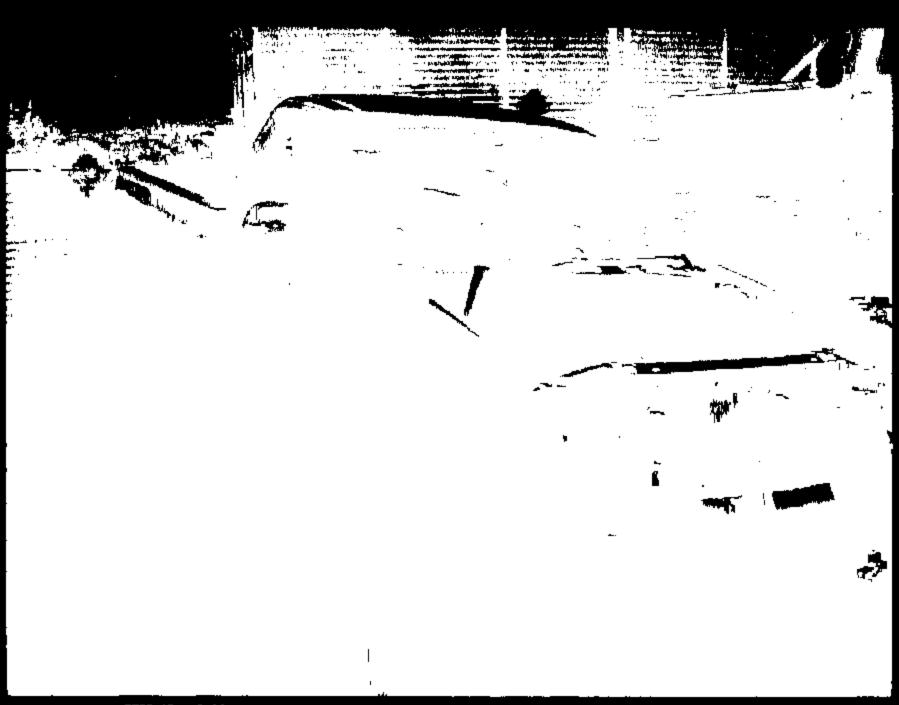


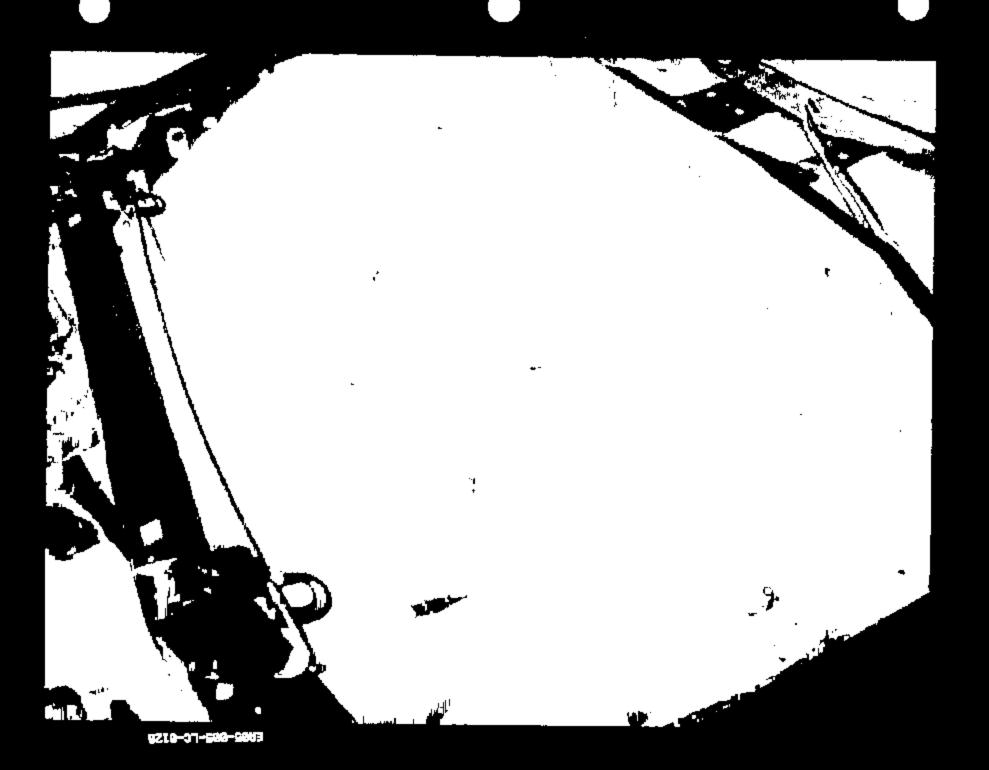
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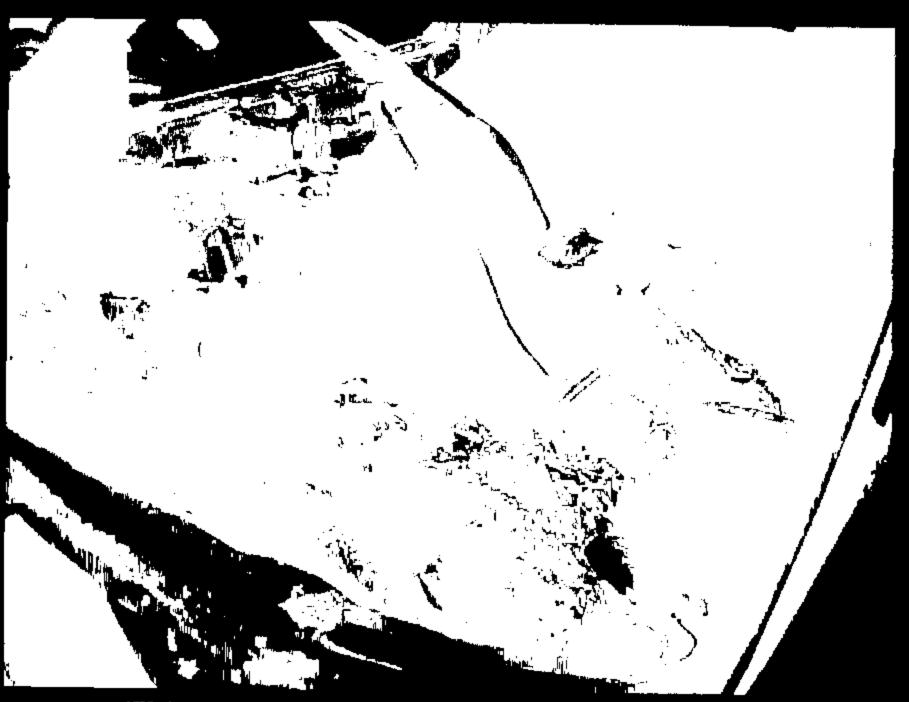












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FARM BUREAU MEJTUAL - FARM BUREAU LIFE - FARM BUREAU GENERAL 7373 Welf-Sogiacur Highway, Bar 30400, Lanning, Michigan 48909-7400 Phane (617) 223-7000

MARCH 9, 2005

L.W. CAMP FORD MOTOR COMPANY 330TOWN CENTER DRIVE DEARBORN MI 48126

RE: Our Insured

Our Claim:

Loss Date:

11-14-01

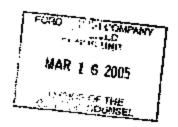
Damages:

\$8,035.50

Vehicle:

IFTDF1764VN

1997 Ford F-150



Dear Mr. Camp:

The above noted claim has come across my desk for review. We have found there were numerous recalls with regard to vehicle fires for the 1997 Ford F-150.

Our insured submitted a loss to us for the total loss of his 1997 Ford F-150. It had been parked in his driveway overnight. The truck caught fire after our insured left for work. The neighbor called the fire department. They responded and put out the fire. They determined that the fire started in the engine area of the vehicle.

Since this vehicle fits the description of previous fires reported to Ford I am requesting that you take a look at the material provided and proceed to reimburse Farm Bureau Insurance for the amount of \$8,035,50 which we paid for the damages to the vehicle.

Please make your reimbursement payable to Farm Hureau Insurance and send it to:

Farm Bureau Insurance Subrogation Unit P.O. Box 30400 Lansing MI 48909-7900

Please include our claim number of 08/21816-080 on your reimbursement.

Sincerely

M'Lissa Walley

Subrogation Claims Representative

mw

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A member of the Michigan Form Bureou Family of Companies





EU02-089-FC-0133



EU82-892-FC-9134





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ISSUE LIST

Last Handling Date/ Isoue Status	Name/ Reason Deac	Vin/ Case No.	Nodel Year and Vehicle Line	lasue Type
3/9/2005		1FTDF1764VN/	1997 F-SERIES	02
CLOSED	LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY SETTLEMENT	50502320		
3/9/2005		1FTDF1764VN/	1997 F-SERIES	02
CLOSED	AWA - CAC SUPPORTS FIELD'S DECISION	50502320		
1/22/2002		1FT0F1764VN/	1997 F-SERIES	02
CLOSED	RECALL/ONP - VEHICLE INVOLVEMENT	50502320		
12/21/2001		1FTOF1784VNJ	1997 F-SERIES	02
CLOSED	LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY	505029201	•	

All Action Details for issue

Print

VIN: 1FTDF1784VN

Year: 1997

Owner Status: Subsequent

Model: F-SERIES WSD: 1996-03-14

Origin Desc; US CONCERN CASE BASE

Case: 505023201

Symptom Deac: FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME UNDERHOOD

Resson Desc: LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY SETTLEMENT

Primary Phone Secondary Phy

lasue Type: 02 INFORMATION

Iggue Statue: CLOSEO

Action: ADVISE CUSTOMER TO CONTACT THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE

Dezion.

Comm Type: PHONE

Odometer: 120000 Mil-

Analyst Name: PEPPI DIMITROPOULOS

Analyst: PDM/ITRO

Action Date: 03/09/2005

Action Time: 12.19.58.962

Action Data: No

Comments CUSTOMER SAID: =CLAIM HAS BEEN PAID BY THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND VEH WAS TOTALED BY THE INSURANCE COMPANY = THE FIRE DEPT DID STATE THAT IT WAS DUE TO AN ELECTRICAL FIRE BUT DID NOT STATE WHERE THE ELECTRICAL FIRE STARTED =CUST PAID \$2400 OUT OF HIS POCKET =CUST CALLED THIS MORNING BUT DID NOT ASK IF THIS GETS FORWARDED TO ANY OTHER DEPARTMENTS WITHIN FORDDEALER SAID: BILL MACDONALD FORD INC1200 CARNEY DRIVEST CLAIR, MI 48079TEL: (810) 329-5601CRC ADVISED: YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY HAS THE RIGHT TO PURSUE CLAIMS FOR REMBURSEMENT AGAINST FORD, HOWEVER, FORD WILL BE UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE YOUR CLAIM AS REPAIRS TO YOUR VEHICLE HAVE BEEN PERFORMED AND YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF PURSUING A CLAIM WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY, ADVICUST I WILL BE FORWARDING THIS INFORMATION TO OUR ENGINEERING DEPT WHO RESEARCHES THESE CONCEINS

All Action Details for leave

Print

WH: 1FTDF1764VN

Name:

Year: 1997

Model: F-SERIES Owner Status: Subsequent

Symptom Osoc: FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME UNDERHOOD Reason Desc: AWA - CAC SUPPORTS FIELD'S DECISION lesum Status: CLOSED

leaus Type: 02 INFORMATION

Case: 505023201 WSD: 1986-03-14 Primary Phone

Origin Desc: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Secondary Ptx

Action: CB-SUPPORT DEALERSHIP'S/REGION'S POSITION

Dealer: 02743 BILL MACDONALD FORD, INC.

Odometer: 12000 Mil

Analyst Name: POMMELLS TRACEY

Action Date: 03/09/2005

Comm Type: PHONE Analyst: TPOMMELS

Action Time: 11.22.15.895

Action Data: No

Comments CustoMER BAID: --CUST BAYS CAUGHT ON FIRE ON NOVEMBER 14, 2001 --CUST SAYS THE FIRE STARTED IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT.—CUST IS NOT SURE OF THE WHERE ABOUT OF THE TRUCK AT THIS TIME AS IT WAS TOTALEO BU THE INSURANCE COMPANY : == CUST SAYS A FIRE REPORT WAS FILEO NEW HAVEN MICHIGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT.; =-CUST SAYS THE PIRE DEPT, COULD NOT FIND THE REASON WHY THE FIRE STARTED.; =-CUST SAYS HE DID FILE A CLAIM WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANY AND THEY TOTALED THE TRUCK AND COULD NOT PAY OFF THE BALANCE ON THE TRUCK; -CUST SAYS THE TRUCK WAS NOT REPAIRABLE AFTER THE FIRE,-CUST SAYS THE TRUCK WAS NOT RUNNING WHEN THE FIRE STARTED DEALER SAID: 1200 CARNEY DRIVEST CLAIR, MI 48079TEL: (810) 329-6801FAX; (\$10) 329-2086CRC ADVISED; THANK YOU FOR CONTACTING FORD MOTOR COMPANY IN REGARDS TO THIS 18SUE, OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT A DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AND THE CRC CAN NOT OVERTURN THIS DECISION, HOWEVER, TO ENGURE OUR RECORDS ARE COMPLETE WE HAVE DOCUMENTED YOUR FEEDBACK, INOTE TO CSR: SUPPORT DURYREGION DECISION.)—NO RECALL ON TRUCK; -SPOKE WITH TI. HELEN AND SHE ADVISED TO TAKE THIS PATH -- ADVISED CUST OF THE ABOVE INFO .:

All Action Details for Issue

Pont

VIN: 1FTDF1784VN

Year: 1997

Model: F-SERIES

Casa: 505023201

Name:

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSD: 1996-03-14

Symptom Deec:

Reason Deed: RECALL/ONP - VEHICLE INVOLVEMENT

Issue Type: 02 INFORMATION

lesses Status: CLOSED

Primary Phone: Secondary Phon

Origin Desc: US INQUIRY CASE BASE

Action: ADVISE CLIST NO PSA'S AT THIS TIME

Dealer:

Comm Type: PHONE

Odometer: 1 Mi Analyst Name: SPILLANE YENNA

Analyst YSPALLAN

Action Date: 01/22/2002

Action Time: 12.51.29.272

Action Date: No

COMMISSION CUSTOMER SAYS: - PAUL TRUDELLE - WANTS TO KNOW IF THE VEH WAS INVOLVE IN AN FIFIE - THE VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE - INSURANCE TOTALLED THE VEH - THE VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE ON NOV 14/2001 - FEELS THAT THIS IS AN ELECTRICAL CONCERN - THE INSURANCE COMPANY HAS THE VEH - SEEKING TO KNOW IF THERE IS A FSA ON THE VEH ABOUT THIS PER CUSTOMER, DEALER SAYS: CAC ADVISED: - VEHICLE IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY FIELD SERVICE ACTION/CUSTOMER SATISFACTION PROGRAM AT THIS TIME. INFERENCE CASE ID: 1040

VINE 1FTDF1784VN

Year: 1997

Model: F-SERIES

Case: 505023201

Symptom Desc:

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSD: 1996-03-14 Primary Phone:

Reason Desc: LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY SETTLEMENT iesus Type: 02 INFORMATION

issue Status: CLOSED

Secondary Pho

Action: ADVISE CUSTOMER TO CONTACT THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE

Dealer:

Origin Desc: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Odometer: 1 Mil

Comm Type: PHONE Analyst: RALLEYNE

Analyst Name: FIOXANE ALLEYNE Action Date: 11/16/2001

Action Time: 14.02.12.143

Action Data: No

Caller Information if Different From Vehicle Owner:

First Mone

Middle Initial

est N

Relationatio SPOUSE

Companies CUSTOMER SAYS: --CUST VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE ON NOV 14-99 --THE FIRE STARTED IN THE ENGINE OF THE VEH = VEH IS NOW AT A FORD DLR ===FIRE REPORT FINDINGS IS VEH JUST CAUGHT ON FIRE ==FIRE REPORT NUMBER IS -50120 FIRE DEPT IS NEW HAVEN MI -CUST DISCUSS WITH INSURANCE PER CUSTOMER, DEALER SAYS: NONE CAC ADVISED: - PLEASE DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY, FORD IS UNABLE TO ASSIST IN THIS SITUATION, INFERENCE CASE ID: 5353

Action: ADVISE CUSTOMER TO CONTACT THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE

Dealer:

Odometer: 120000 MI

Analyst Name: CYNTHIA CAMARA

Action Date: 12/19/2001

Comm Type: PHONE

Analyst: CCAMARA Action Time: 09.51.35.888

Action Date: No

Caller Information if Different From Vehicle Owner:

First Name

لجنتنط والملاتا

Lasi Name

Day Phone

Origin Deac: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Relationable SPOUSE

Comments CUSTOMER SAYS: - VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE ON NOVEMBER 14, 2001 THE FIRE STARTED IN THE ENGINE OF THE VEH. - VEH IS NOW AT A FORD DUR - FIRE REPORT FINDINGS IS VEH JUST CAUGHT ON FIRE - FIRE REPORT NUMBER IS --50120 - FIRE DEPT WAS IN NEW HAVEN MI - CUST FEELS THAT THERE WAS A DEFECT IN THE VEH THAT CAUSED THE FIRE - CUST HAS CONTACTED HIS INSURANCE COMPANY WHO TOTALLED THE VIEH - CUST INSURANCE COMPANY has already paid him for the veh - clist would like to file a claim with ford regarding the fire - clist ADVISED INSURANCE COMPANY NOT TO TOTAL THE VEH AS YET HE WOULD LIKE TO DO AN INVESTIGATION PER CUSTOMER, DEALER SAYS: - NONE CAC ADVISED: - YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY HAS THE RIGHT TO PURSUE CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT AGAINST FORD, FORD IS UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE THE VEHICLE AS REPAIRS HAVE SEEN PERFORMED, INFERENCE CASE (D: 5343)

Action: OUTBOUND CALL TO FORDMERCURY CUSTOMER.

Dealer:

Odometer: 120000 Mil

Analyst Name: MARILITT MATZANKE

Action Date: 12/20/2001

Comma Type: PHONE

Analyst: MMATZANK

Action Time: 11,16.37.233

Origin Desc: MANUAL - PHONE CSR

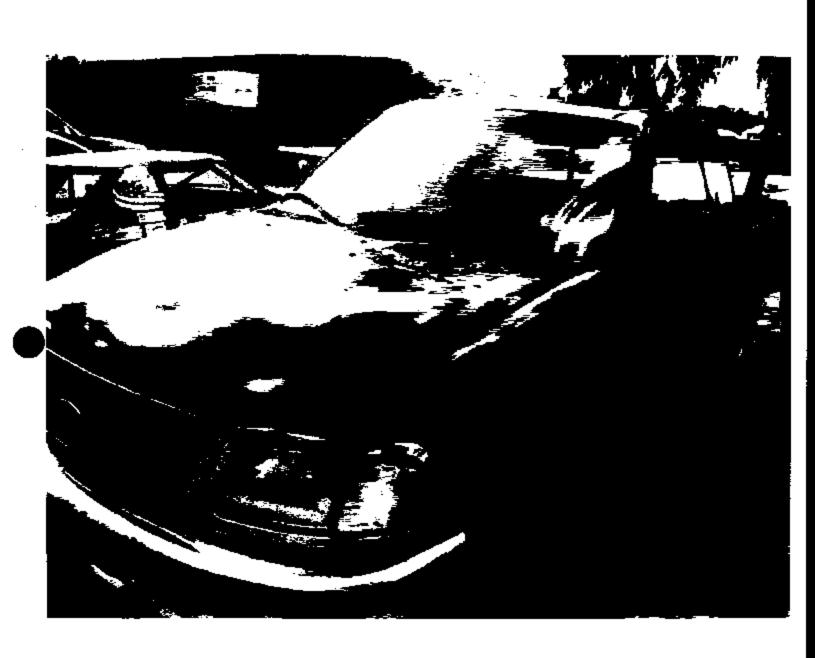
Action Date: No

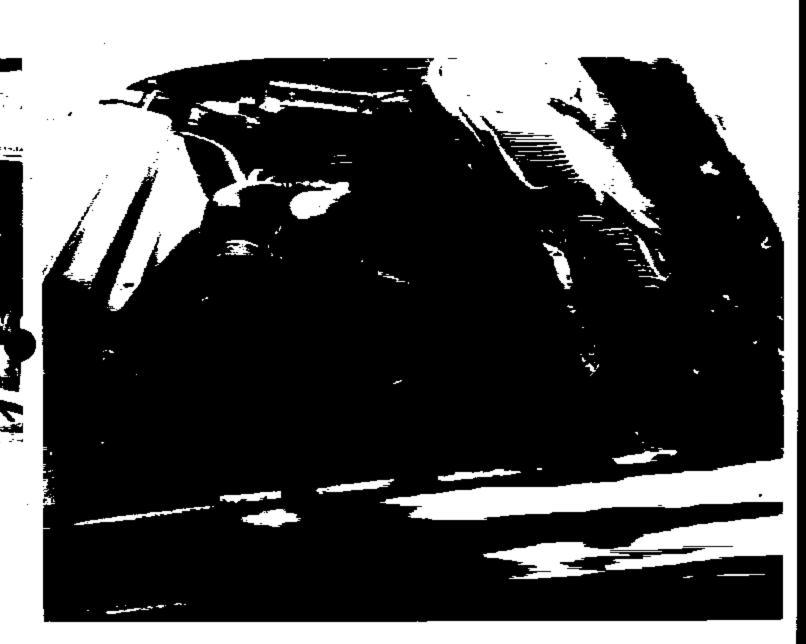
Community CL/STOMER SAYS: IBC**** THE CUST IS CALLING BACK ADVISED AS PER PREVIOUS CSR PER CUSTOMER,



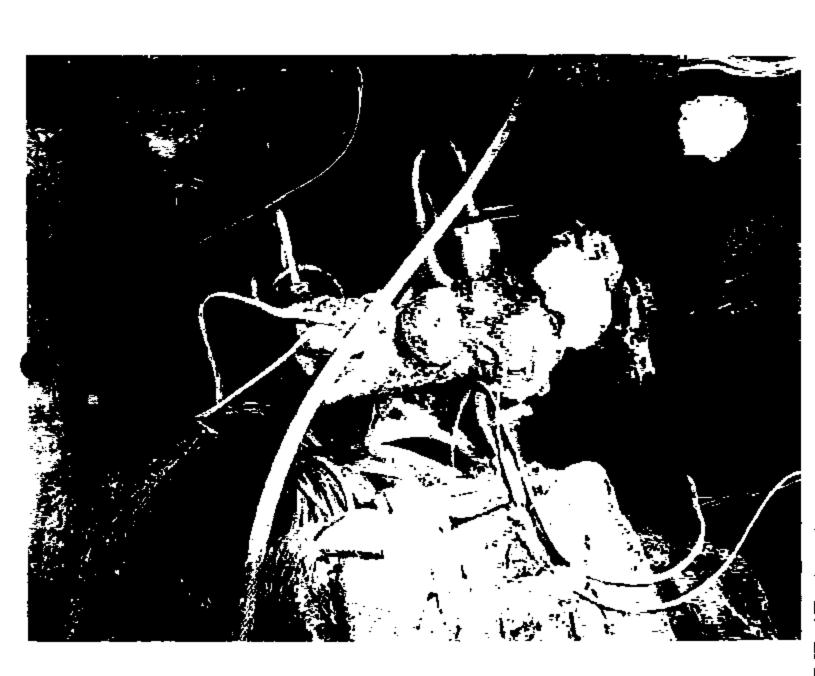














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CAUSE NO. (1-105%-105-A

FILE

O'CLOCK

VS.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC., E.I. DUPONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY and SPIKES MOTOR COMPANY, INC.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

MAY 0 6 2005 OMAR GUERRERO, CLEF District Courts, Hidalgo Cous

PLAINTIEFS ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Plaintiffs. complaining of Ford Motor Company ("Ford"), Texas Instruments, Inc. ("TI"), E. I. DuPont De Nemours and Spiles Motor Company, Inc. and would show unto the court as follows:

1. Parties & Venue:

live in Hidalgo County, Texas. Plaintts.

Defendant, Ford Motor Company, is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of business In Michigan and may be served with process, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by serving its registered agent, Ct Corp System, 350 N. St. Paul Street, Dallas, Texas 75201

Defendant, Texas instruments, Inc., is doing business in Texas and may be served with process, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by serving its registered agent, Richard J. Agnich, 7839 Church Hill Way, MS 3999, Oellas, Texas 75251.

Defendant, E.J. Du Pont De Nemours and Company, is a Delaware corporation and may be served process, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by serving E.I. Du Pont De Nemoure and Company, Room 8042, Du Pont Building, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898.

Defendant, Spikes Motor Company, Inc., may be served with process, by certified mail, return receipt recuested, by serving its registered agent, Carl F. Spikes, Jr., 805 E. Expressway 83, Mission, Texas 78572.

Vertue is proper in Hidalgo County, Texas because the Plaintiffs reside in Hidalgo County, all or part of the conduct complained of herein took place in Hidalgo County, Texas, and because at least one Defendant conducts business there.

2. Discovery Control Plan

The Plaintills move the court to enter a discovery control plan pursuant to TRCP § 190.4 which includes two sets of interrogatories of no more than 30 written interrogatories, excluding interrogatories asking a party only to identify or authenticate specific documents. Plaintiffs will submit a proposed discovery control plan after conferring with Defendants' counsel.

3, Facts and Background

Plaintiff's, Jose Luis and Leticia Vasquez, purchased a 2001 Ford Expedition (VIN # 1FMRU17W8 from Spikes Motor Company manufactured and designed by Ford and equipped with a defective speed control deactivation switch, manufactured and marketed by Ti which contained defective Kaplon membrane manufactured by Du Pont. Prior to the fire in question, Spikes negligently repaired the Expedition.

On or about October 18, 200 was street, was sitting in the living room heard a noise and observed that smoke was coming out of his garage. The Vasquez home is located in Hidelgo County at 3 1/4 mile line and Moorefield Rd. The fire quickly spread from the vehicle to the house and all its contents. The defective speed control deactivation switch ("SCDS") was the lightion source for the fire.

4. Negligence

The Defendants were negligent in one or more of the following particulars and such negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' damages:

As to Defendants, Ford, TI, OuPont, and Spikes Motor Company:

- a. In falling to timely and properly notify Plaintiffs of the defective condition of their vehicle;
- In falling to remedy the defective condition;
- In failing to advise authorized Ford dealerships to remedy the defective condition;
- In failing to properly morallor and locate vehicle registrations to identify and locate customers, such as Plaintiffs, who own defective vehicles;
- In failing to advise Plaintiffs' not to park the automobile in a garage, carport or items
 capable of catching fire;

- In manufacturing and distributing Plaintiffs' vehicle without correcting defects;
- in failing to adequately investigate fires occurring in the subject vehicle line which included a similar cause and origin of the fires in question;
- In failing to institute a timely or effective vehicle recall campaign;
- By negligently designing the electrical circuit which controls the vehicles' cruise control;
- j. By designing an electrical circuit that supplies continuous electrical power to the speed control switch when the vehicle is parked, not running with the ignition key off, thereby providing an ignition source for the fire;
- k. By failing to provide adequate engineering design specifications to TI concerning the number of cycles the speed control descrivation switch would encounter over the subject vehicles' foreseeable life. Additionally, Ford failed to consider or provide switch cycle data created by the vehicles' arti-lock brake, suspension leveling and traction control systems;
- By feiling to provide adequate engineering design specifications to TI;
- By falling to include an adequate electrical current limiting device in the electrical circuit which supplies power to the switch;
- By instituting an unreasonable date of production to achieve "Job One;"
- In failing to adequately manufacture, investigate, engineer and/or test the speed control switch prior to distribution to Ford for inclusion into the subject vehicles;
- In falling to design a speed control switch which does not allow the intrusion of corrosive substances in contact with the electrical components of the switch;
- q. In failing to test the speed control switch prior to distribution based on foreseeable electrical, thermal, cyclical, and environmental conditions the switch would encounter during the expected life of the vehicle and/or speed control switch;
- r. In failing to consider previous failure and/or engineering problems associated with the use of "KAPTON," in similar hydraulic pressure switches where chemical attack, mechanical forces, and/or manufacturing processes were suspected but not

- considered during the design, manufacture and/or marketing of the speed control deactivation switch installed on Plaintiffs' vehicles;
- In failing to advise Ford and/or the Plaintiffs that "KAPTON_a" failures had occurred in other similarly designed pressure switches;
- In supplying and/or distributing defective components for installation in vehicles such as Plaintiffs without correcting such defects;
- By failing to design and manufacture the switch with electrical components which would not corrode and cause an electrical short and fire; and
- v. falling to properly repair the control eticle
- falling to update Ford dealer service department with all known information concerning vehicle service issues.
- x. In such other respects as may be shown by the discovery or at trial.

5. Breach of Service Contract

On or about August 28, 2004 Plaintiff's took their Ford Expedition to Spikes Ford for repairs because the vehicle would "not shift out of park". Plaintiffs paid Spikes (\$101.96) to service the truck shifting problem. Spikes allegedly repaired the shifting problem and stated, "checked found blown fuse replaced fuse and found blowing fuse, traced wires, and checked DVOM manual found fuse too small 5 amps installed 20amps fuse to slot 16." The service contract is attached hereto as exhibit "A". Spikes should have known that the shifting problems were retated to the defective speed control switch exhibiting one of its failure modes Spikes was negligent by replacing the fuse with one which exceed the designed amperage capacity of the TI speed switch. Spikes' alleged repair of Plaintiffs' vehicle constitutes breach of the service agreement and was a cause of the fire that destroyed Plaintiffs' house, vehicle and all its contents.

Breach of Ford Motor Company-Spikes Licenson/Licenses Agreements

Plaintiff's would further show that Ford Motor Company breached its Franchise and License agreement with Spikes by not providing service related information relevant to ongoing service issues of Plaintiffs' Ford Expedition. Ford Motor Company is obligated and has a duty to provide Spikes with service information concerning its vehicles so that Spikes would effectively service and repair the Plaintiffs Expedition. Plaintiffs are Third Party beneficiaries to the agreements between Ford and Spikes. Fords' and Spikes breach of this agreement was a cause of the fire that consumed Plaintiff's house and vehicle.

7. TCPRC 38,001 Demand

Plaintiffs' damages include loss of their house \$120,000.00, loss of one vehicle \$15,000.00 and loss of all contents of their house \$200,000.00. Plaintiffs demand payment of these amounts within 30 days of this demand.

8. Breach of Warranty between TI and Ford

TI breached its warranty to Ford to supply a speed control descrivation switch (SCDS) that complied with Ford engineering specifications. The switches supplied were not merchantable, not fit for the purpose intended, and did not comply with the sales agreement between Ford and TI. TI breached the implied warranty of merchantability (UCC § 2.314) since the SCDS in question leaked, corroded and caught on fire. TI breached the implied warranty of fitness for particular purpose (UCC § 2.315). Ford relied on TI's still and judgment to select or furnish suitable goods, which turned out to be inadequate and unsuitable for the engineering specification, which resulted in the SCDS leaking, corroding and catching fire.

Plaintiffs are third-party beneficiaries of the warranties made between TI and Ford. Ti's breach of one or more of these warranties were a proximate cause of the Plaintiffs' damages (UCC 2.715) for which Plaintiffs sue Ti. The discovery of Ti's breach of these warranties occurred at the time of the fire in question.

9. Gross Negligence

The Plaintiffs' resulting damages, injuries and losses were caused by the gross negligence, fraud and malice as malice of the Defendants. The conduct of Defendants Ford and TI constitutes gross negligence, fraud and malice as those terms are understood under Texas taw and as defined by Section 41.001 Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rean. Code, in that it constituted a conscious indifference to the rights and welfare of persons affected by it. The Defendants' fraud and deceit will, in one way, be shown by Ford's and TI's spoilation of evidence that has been uncovered during the course of this lawsuit. As a result, Plaintiffs seek to recover exemplary damages from Defendants, Ford and TI as a result of their gross negligence, fraud, deceit and malice. Plaintiffs Intend to show that the factors the jury may consider in determining the emount of exemplary damages which should be awarded include:

- the nature of the wrong committed by Ford and TI;
- the character of Ford's and Ti's conduct.
- the degree of culpability of Ford and TI;
- the situation and sansibilities of the parties concerned; and
- the extent to which Ford's and Tt's conduct offends a public sense of justice and propriety.

The Plaintills believe that examplary damages should not exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

10. Damages

Plaintiffs would show that their damages, injuries and/or losses are within the jurisdictional limits of this

Court, and include property damages, loss of their vehicle(s), home, home contents, loss of use of vehicle and home, mental anguish, costs to repair or replace their property, and any other consequential damages foreseeably arising from the incident in question.

Plainliffs would show that they are entitled to reasonable and necessary attorney fees and costs of prosecuting this matter.

Plainliffs would show that they are entitled to pre-judgment and postjudgment interest at the maximum rate allowed by law.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- (a) Plaintiffs request that Defendants be cited according to law to appear and answer,
- Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for all actual damages within the jurisdictional (b) limits of the Court and for attorneys' fees, and all statutory additional [or exemplary] damages as set forth above, costs of court, and prejudgment and post judgment interest at the highest lewful rates:
- Plaintiffs also ask for such other relief to which they may be entitled (c)

Michael Jolly TBA# 10856910

405 Main, Suite 1000 Houston, Texas 77002

(713) 237-8383 Facc (713) 237-8385







New Jew

Nationwide Insurance • 110 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212 • 315-453-3594

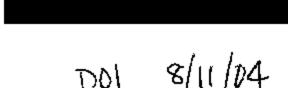
May 6, 2005

Ford Motor Company
Parklane Towers West – Suite 300
Three Parklane Boulevard
Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Attn: Shawn Norton

Re: 63 claims relating to cruise control recall

Dear Ms. Norton:



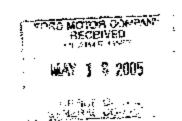
197 F-1150

As you will recall you and I spoke 4 weeks ago. I am the manager of a centralized unit that has been handling subrogation claims Nationwide has involving automobile fires and possible defects since September, 2004. We also have been handling these claims for our affiliate company Allied since February, 2005. You have had discussions on several claims with my associates Kathie Styer, Lynn Ellis and Lynn Koenck. Our goal has been to establish a positive working relationship with your company, and to only submit claims to your company having merit.

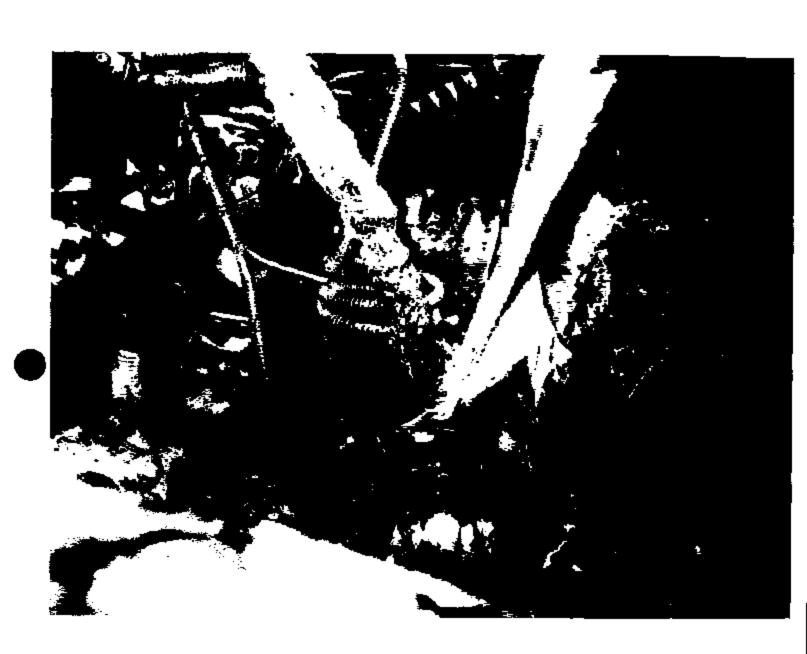
Enclosed you will find supporting materials regarding 63 of our claims relating to the cruise control recall. We have provided a list of these claims, and supporting documents for each claim which are separated and in the same order as they appear on the list. These claims are for the eastern states in our operation. We are waiting for a report on our western states handled by Allied, and as soon as it is available I will send those to you for review. As we discussed during our phone call many of these claims were handled and closed prior to us being aware there was an issue with the cruise control. Therefore, on some of those claims we did not secure a cause an origin report, and the vehicles are no longer available. On all claims we have provided photographs and estimates that clearly document the area where the fire started.

I would appreciate discussing this with you or someone at Ford once you have received this and have had an opportunity to review. Please contact me by phone at 315-453-3594, by fax at 614-961-3180 or by EMAIL at mabbete@nationwide.com. We look forward to continue working with you and your team, building a strong working relationship, and working towards cost effective resolutions of claims for both of our companies.

Sincerely Craig Mabbett Subrogation Manager

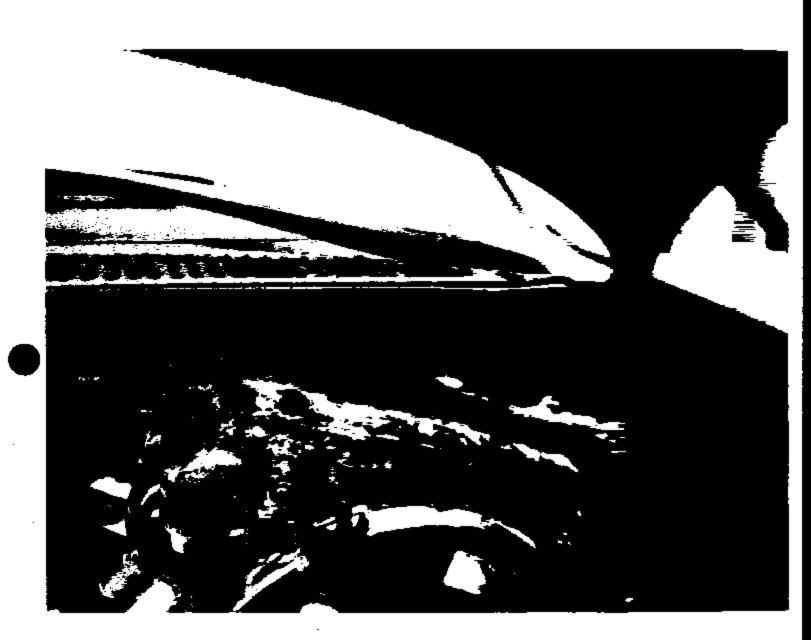




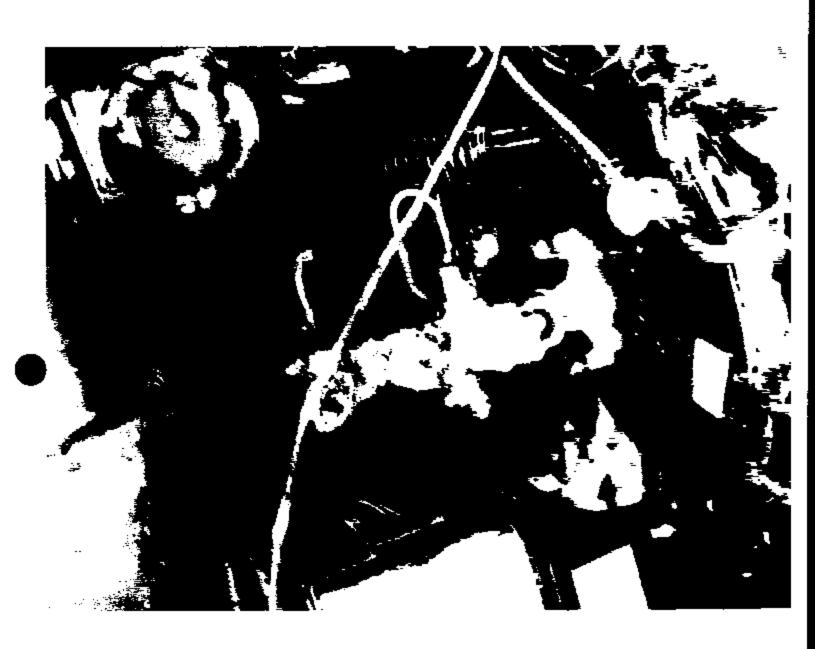




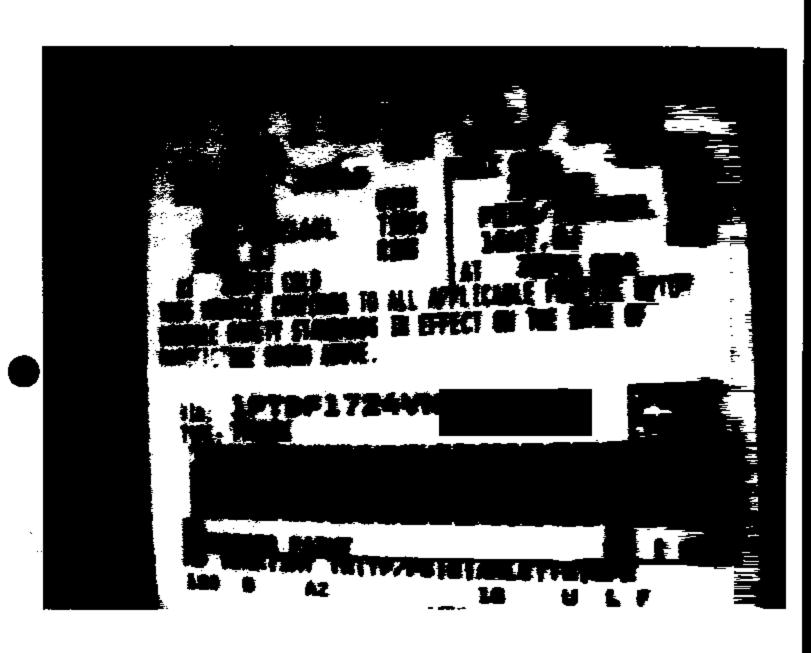














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CAUSE NO. 1114-597

VS.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC., E.I. DUPONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY and DAVID O. OLSEN IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COME NOW, Plaintiffs, Proceedings of Ford Motor Company ("Ford"), Texas Instruments, Inc. ("Ti"), David O. Olsen ("Olsen"), and E. I. DuPont De Nemours and Company ("DP") and would show unto the court as follows:

1. Parties & Venue;

Plaintiffs are residents of Port Neches, Jefferson County, Texas.

Defendent, <u>Ford Motor Company</u>, is a Delaware Corporation with its principal place of business in Michigan and may be served with process, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by serving its registered agent, CT Corp System, 350 N. St. Paul Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Defendant, <u>Texas Instruments. Inc.</u>, is doing business in Texas and may be served with process, by certified mall, return receipt requested, by serving its registered agent, Richard J. Agnich, 7839 Church Hill Way, MS 3899, Dallas, Texas 75251.

Defendant, E.I. Du Pont De Nemoure and Company, is a Delaware corporation and may be served process, by certified mail, return receipt requested, by serving E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Company, Room 8042, Du Pont Building, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19888.

Defendant, <u>David O. Olsen</u> is an individual residing in Jefferson County, Texas and may be served citation by private service at 725 W. Round Bunch, Bridge City, Texas 77611-2433.

Venue is proper in Jefferson County, Texas because all or part of the conduct complained of herein took place in Jefferson County, Texas, and because a Defendant resides there.

2. Discovery Control Plan

The Plaintiffs move the court to enter a discovery control plan pursuant to TRCP §190.4 which includes two sets of interrogatories of no more than 30 written interrogatories, excluding interrogatories asking a party only to identify or authenticate specific documents. Plaintiffs will submit a proposed discovery control plan after conversing with Defendants' counsel.

3. Facts and Background

On or about June 2003, David O. Olsen consigned for sale to Plaintiff, Roland Angelle, a 1997 Ford F150 pickup truck manufactured and designed by Ford and equipped with a defective speed control deactivation switch, manufactured and marketed by Ti which utilized defective components manufactured by OP known as "KAPTON,". The truck VIN was 1FTDX1789VI

On or about June 20, 2003, Mr. Angelle parked the Ford pickup in his garage connected to his residence at 2828 Reynolds Lane, Port Neches, Texas. The defective speed control deactivation switch either solely or in combination with the "KAPTON_e" and/or other defective electrical components, wring and/or circuits on the truck, was the ignition source for the fire which originated in the truck and completely destroyed Plaintiffs' residence, personal property, family photographs and other irreplaceable memorabilia.

4. Negligence

The Defendants were negligent in one or more of the following particulars and such negligence was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' damages:

As to Defendant, Otsen:

- In failing to notify Plaintiffs of the defective condition of the truck when Defendant knew or should have known of such condition;
- In falling to timely remedy the defective condition;
- c. In failing to remedy the defective condition when the

truck was presented to an authorized Ford dealer for service;

- In falling to timely or properly notify Ptaintiffs' to present the vehicle for service at an authorized Ford dealer;
- In falling to advise Plaintiffs not to park the truck in a garage, carports, or other items capable of catching fire;
- In falling to properly repair and/or maintain the truck;
- g. In falling to remedy defects in the truck as needed;
- In failing to replace the defective speed control deactivation switch end/or circuit fuse; and
- In other respects as may be shown at trial.

As to Defendants, Ford, Tr and DP:

- a. In failing to timely and properly notify Plaintiffs of the defective condition of the vehicle;
- In failing to remedy the defective condition;
- in failing to advise authorized Ford dealerships to remedy the defective condition;
- In failing to properly monitor and locate vehicle registrations to identify and locate customers, such as Plaintiffs, who possess defective vehicles;
- In failing to advise Plaintiffs' not to park the automobile in a garage, carport or items capable of catching fire;
- In manufacturing and distributing the vehicle without correcting defects;
- g. In failing to adequately investigate fires occurring in the subject vehicle line which included a similar cause and origin of the fires in question;
- In failing to institute a timely or effective vehicle recall campaign;
- By negligently designing the electrical circuit which controls the vehicles' cruise control;
- By designing an electrical circuit that supplies continuous electrical power to the speed control switch when the vehicle is parked, not running with the ignition key off, thereby providing an ignition source for the fire;
- k. By failing to provide adequate engineering design specifications to TI and/or OP concerning the number of cycles the speed control deactivation switch would encounter over the subject vehicles' foreseeable life. Additionally, Ford failed to consider or provide switch cycle data created by the vehicles' anti-lock brake, suspension leveling and traction control systems:
- By failing to provide adequate engineering design specifications to T1;
- By falling to include an adequate electrical current limiting device in the electrical circuit which supplies power to the switch;
- By instituting an unreasonable date of production to achieve "Job One;"
- In falling to adequately manufacture, investigate, engineer and/or test the speed control switch prior to distribution to Ford for Inclusion into the subject vehicles;
- In failing to design a speed control switch which does not allow the intrusion of corresive substances in contact with the electrical components of the switch;
- q. In failing to test the speed control switch prior to distribution based on foreseeable electrical, thermal, cyclical, and environmental conditions the switch would encounter during the expected life of the vehicle and/or speed control switch:
- r. In failing to consider previous failure and/or engineering problems associated with the use of "KAPTON_e" in similar hydraulic pressure switches where chemical attack, mechanical forces, and/or manufacturing processes were suspected but not considered during the design, manufacture and/or marketing of the speed control deactivation switch installed on Plaintiffs' vehicles;
- In failing to advise Ford and/or DP and/or the Plaintiffs that "KAPTON_e" failures had occurred in other similarly designed pressure switches;
- in supplying and/or distributing defective components for Installation in vehicles such as Plaintiffs without correcting such defects;
- By failing to design and manufacture the switch with electrical components which would not corrode and cause an electrical short and

fire; and v. In such other respects as may be shown by the discovery or at trial. 5. Gross Negligence

The Plaintiffs' resulting damages, injuries and losses were caused by the gross negligence, fraud and malice of the Defendants. The conduct of Defendants Ford and TI constitutes gross negligence, fraud and malice as those terms are understood under Texas law and as defined by Section 41.001 Tex. Civ. Prac. and Rem. Code, in that it constituted a conscious indifference to the rights and welfare of persons affected by it. The Defendants' fraud and deceit will, in one way, be shown by Ford's and TI's spotiation of evidence that has been uncovered during the course of this lawsuit. As a result, Plaintiffs seek to recover exemplary damages from Defendants, Ford and TI as a result of their gross negligence, fraud, deceit and malice. Plaintiffs intend to show that the factors the jury may consider in determining the amount of exemplary damages which should be awarded include:

- the nature of the wrong committed by Ford and TI;
- the character of Forti's and Ti's conduct;
- the degree of culpability of Ford and YI;
- the situation and sensibilities of the parties concerned; and
- the extent to which Ford's and TI's conduct offends a public sense of justice and propriety.

The Plaintiffs believe that exemplary damages should not exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

6. Damages

Plaintiffs would show that their damages, injuries and/or losses are within the jurisdictional limits of this Court, and include property damages, loss of their vehicle(s), home, home contents, loss of use of vehicle and home, mental anguish, costs to repair or replace their property, and any other consequential damages foreseeably erising from the incident in question.

Plaintiffs would show that they are entitled to reasonable and necessary attorney fees and costs of prosecuting this matter.

Plaintiffs would show that they are entitled to pre-judgment and postjudgment interest at the

maximum rate allowed by law.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

- (a) Plaintiffs request that Defendants be cited according to law to appear and answer;
- **(b)** Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for all actual damages within the jurisdictional limits of the Court and for attorneys' fees, and all statutory additional for examplary] damages as set forth above, costs of court, and prejudgment and post judgment interest at the highest lawful rates;
- Plaintiffs also ask for such other relief to which they may be entitled (c)

Respectfully submitted:

NORman Jolly TBA# 10856920

Michael Jolly

TBA# 10856910

405 Main, Suite 1000 Houston, Texas 77002 (713) 237-8383 Fax: (713) 237-8385



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Nationwide®On Your Side®

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02:11/27/04

Nationwide Insurance • 110 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212 • 315-453-3594

May 6, 2005

Ford Motor Company
Parklane Towers West – Suite 300
Three Parklane Boulevard
Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Attn: Shawn Norton

Re: 63 claims relating to cruise control recall

Dear Ms. Norton:

As you will recall you and I spoke 4 weeks ago. I am the manager of a centralized unit that has been handling subrogation claims Nationwide has involving automobile fires and possible defects since September, 2004. We also have been handling these claims for our affiliate company Allied since February, 2005. You have had discussions on several claims with my associates Kathie Styer, Lynn Ellis and Lynn Koenck. Our goal has been to establish a positive working relationship with your company, and to only submit claims to your company having merit.

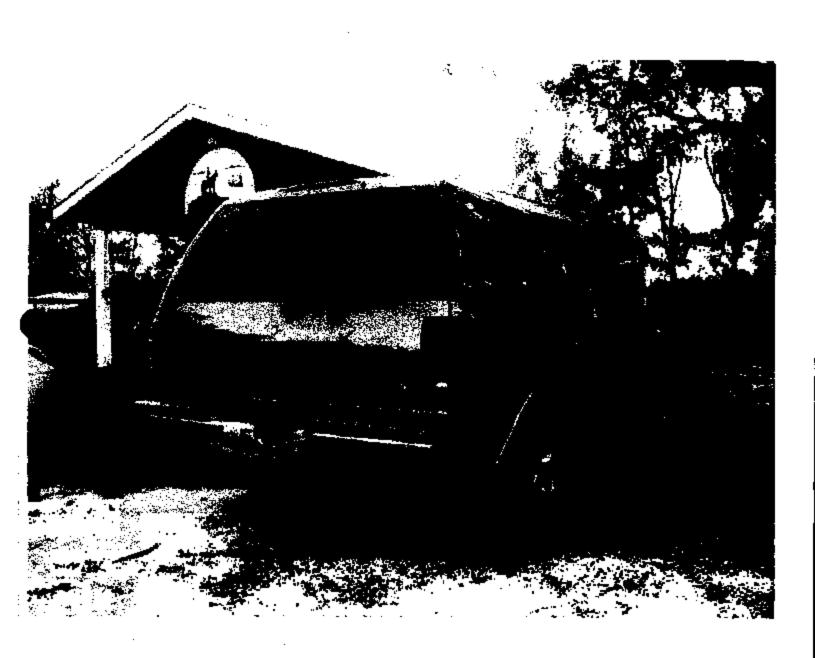
Enclosed you will find supporting materials regarding 63 of our claims relating to the cruise control recall. We have provided a list of these claims, and supporting documents for each claim which are separated and in the same order as they appear on the list. These claims are for the eastern states in our operation. We are waiting for a report on our western states handled by Allied, and as soon as it is available I will send those to you for review. As we discussed during our phone call many of these claims were handled and closed prior to us being aware there was an issue with the cruise control. Therefore, on some of those claims we did not secure a cause an origin report, and the vehicles are no longer available. On all claims we have provided photographs and estimates that clearly document the area where the fire started.

I would appreciate discussing this with you or someone at Ford once you have received this and have had an opportunity to review. Please contact me by phone at 315-453-3594, by fax at 614-961-3180 or by EMAIL at mabbetc@nationwide.com. We look forward to continue working with you and your team, building a strong working relationship, and working towards cost effective resolutions of claims for both of our companies.

Critig Mabbett

Subrogation Manager

MOTOR COLANIA









All Action Details for Issue

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VIN: 1FMRU17L0X

Year: 1999

Owner Status: Subsequent

Model: EXPEDITION Case: 572183384 WSD: 1999-01-14

Name Symptom Desc: FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME

Primary Phone Secondary Pho

Reason Desc: LEGAL - ACCIDENT / FIRE

issue Type: 07 LEGAL

Issue Status: CLOSED

Action: ADVISE CUST INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Dealer: 04970 KARL FLAMMER FORD INC

Origin Descr US CONCERN CASE BASE

Odometer: 98000 Mi

Comm Type: PHONE

Analyst Name: MARTIN CHARMAINE Action Date: 12/03/2004

Analyst: CMART163 Action Time: 15,53,38,248

Action Date: Yes

Comments CUSTOMER SAID: - CUST SAID AN HOUR AFTER HIS WIFE DROVE THE VEH IT BURNT TO THE GROUND-WOULD LIKE FORD TO WORK WITH HIS INSURANCE TO FIND A CAUSE-WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY RECALL ON THE VEHIDEALER SAID: -NONECRC ADVISED: - I WILL FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO OUR CONSUMER AFFAIRS GROUP, SOMEBODY FROM CONSUMER AFFAIRS WILL CONTACT YOU IN 2 BUSINESS DAYS. PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER AND REPORT THIS INCIDENT.

Date	Hor	N.	Me
-			

Cata Value

FIRE/ACCIDENT

Action: SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER TO CUSTOMER

Degler: 04970 KARL FLAMMER FORD INC.

Origin Desc: CONSUMER AFFAIRS - LITIGATION PREVENTION

Odometer: 98000 MJ Comm Type: OTHER Arsalyst Name: CASSANDRA JONES Analyst: CJONES

Action Date: 12/08/2004

Action Time: 15.52.37.425 Action Data: Yes

Comments LPA CALLED CUSTOMER, CUSTOMER WIFE WANTED TO KNOW IF THIS WAIA REOCCURRING PROBLEM WITH THE VEHICLE, LPA ADVISED THERE WAS NO OPEN PSA'S RELATED TO THEIR CONCERN. WIFE WANTED LPA TO CALL HUSBAND ON CELL PHONE THE REPORT OF CALLED, NO ANSWER AFTER SEVERAL RINGS. LPA SENDING LETTER

STATING THE SAME.

Data Element Name

Date Value

CERTIFED LETTER #

Action: FINAL CASE DISPOSITION

Dealer: 04970 KARL FLAMMER FORD INC

Origin Deer: CONSUMER AFFAIRS - LITIGATION PREVENTION

Odometer: 98000 Mit

Comm Type: MAIL Analyst Name: CASSANDRA JONES Analyst: CJONES

Action Date: 12/08/2004

Action Time: 15.53,01.147 Action Date: No

Comments LETTER SENT TO CUSTOMER

All Action Detalls for Issue

Print

VIN≥ 1<u>FMRU17LOX</u>I

Year: 1999

Model: EXPEDITION Case: 572183384

Name .

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSD: 1999-01-1<u>4</u>

Symptom Desc: GENERAL INQUIRIES REQUEST/NON-VEHICLE RELATED

Reason Desc: REGALLIONP - VEHICLE INVOLVEMENT

Primary Phone: Secondary Pho

Issue Type: 02 INFORMATION

Issue Status: CLOSED

Action: ADVISE CUST NO FSA'S AT THIS TIME

Dealer: 04970 KARIL FLAMMER FORD INC

Origin Deact US INQUIRY CASE BASE

Odometer: 98000 MI

Contra Type: PHONE

Analyst Name: MARTIN CHARMAINE Action Date: 12/03/2004 Analyst: CMART163

Action Time: 15.55.11.811

Action Date: No

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State Farm Insurance Companies



May 16, 2005

P.O. 80x 799011 Dallas, TX 75379-9011 (868) 861-0927 Fax - (888) 257-6076

Ford Motor CO. Shawn Norton 3 Parklane Blvd Suite 300 Dearborn, MI 48126

RE:

Claim Number: Date of Loss: Our Insured: Year/Make/Model:

VIN:

February 15, 2005

2001 Ford Expedition 1FMRU15WX1 MAY 2 5 2005

Dear Ms. Norton:

This vehicle was insured by State Farm and involved in a comprehensive loss. The claim settled for \$626.32, which includes our insured's deductible.

Our investigation establishes the cause of loss was due to a fire loss.

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.

Sinceraly,

Tamela Davis - Team Claim Representative (866) 861-0327 Ext.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Enclosures

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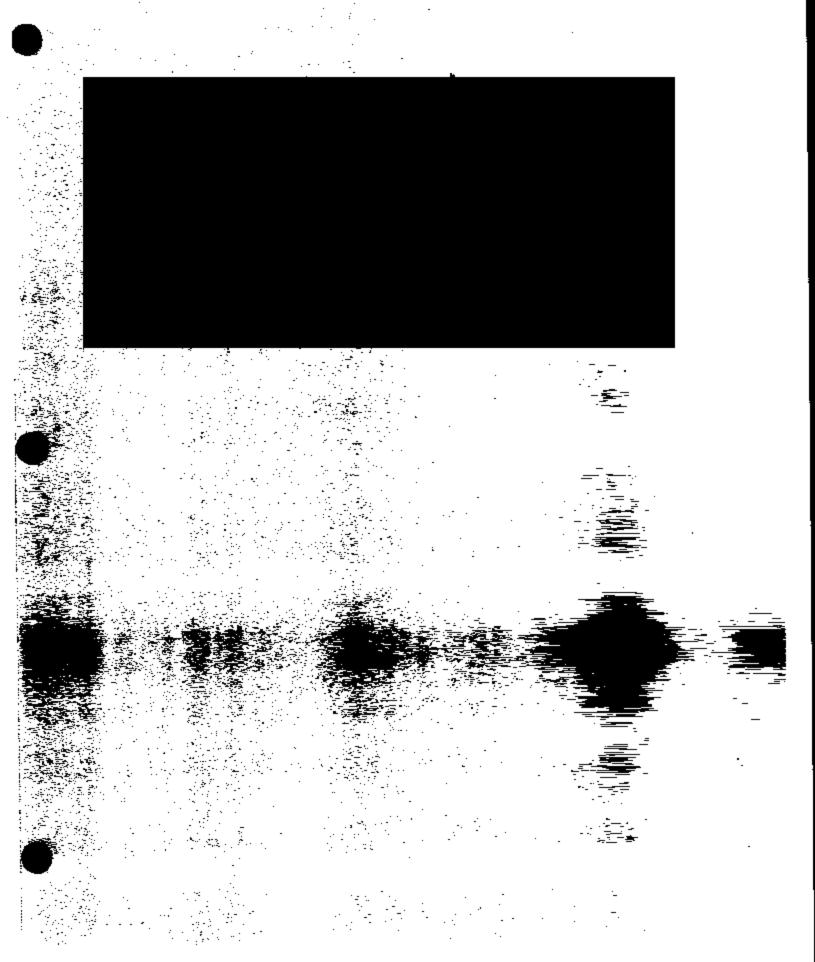
ER85-865-LC-0192











IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

VS.

\$ 600 KM 600 KM 60 HARRIS COUNTY

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

DICIAL DISTRI

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION

NOW COMES Plaintiff herein and makes and files this his Original Petition complaining of FORD MOTOR COMPANY, Defendant and for cause of action shows:

L Discovery

Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery under Level 2 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 109.2. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify such discovery plan in the interest of justice.

IL Parties

Plaintiff is an individual residing in Harris County, Texas.

Defendant, FORD MOTOR COMPANY, a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Deleware, whose principal office is located at One American Road, Dearborn, Michigan 48126, is authorized to do business in Texas and may be served with process by serving its registered agent for service of process CT Corporation System, 350 North St. Paul, Dallas, Texas 75201.

IL Venue and Jurisdiction

Venue is proper in this county under general venue rules because all of the events occurred in this county.

The court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant actively transacts business in the State of Texas. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the dispute because Plaintiff's damages exceed the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court.

IV. Facts

This lawsuit is relative to a motor vehicle fire which occurred on or about August 30, 2004 in Plaintiff's 1999 Ford F150 Heritage 4X4 Super Cab XLT pickup. The fire was caused by an electrical malfunction of the cruise control deactivation switch.

V. Strict Liability

Plaintiff will show that the vehicle was used in a manner that was or could have been easily anticipated by Defendant, and serious damages resulted. The damages were caused by a defect or defects in the design, manufacturing and/or its component parts.

Plaintiff will further show that the defect or defects of the vehicle in question and/or its component parts made the vehicle unreasonably dangerous and

that such defect or defects were a producing cause of Plaintiff's damages.

Defendant is liable under the doctrine of strict liability or products liability.

VI. Fraud

Defendant committed fraud. Defendant made material representations about the vehicle and/or its component parts. Defendant knew that there were material problems with the vehicle and/or its component parts. Defendant made representations about the safety of the vehicle and/or its component parts with knowledge of its falsity or recklessly without any knowledge of the truth and as a positive assertion of fact. Defendant had special knowledge of the vehicle and/or its component parts. This misrepresentation was made with the intention that it should be relied upon by Plaintiff. Plaintiff relied upon the misrepresentation and thereby suffered injury.

VII. Breach of Warranty

Alternatively, Plaintiff would show this Court that Defendants designed, manufactured, assembled, fabricated, repaired, sold, leased, serviced and/or distributed the vehicle or its component parts in a defective condition and therefore breached an implied warranty of fitness and breached an implied warranty of merchantability. Such breach or breaches of such warranties by Defendant were a producing cause, or in the alternative, a proximate cause, of the damages sustained by Plaintiff.

VIII. Negligence

In the alternative, Plaintiff would show that Defendant was negligent in designing, manufacturing, assembling, fabricating, repairing, installing, servicing and/or distributing the vehicle, and/or its component parts, and that such negligence proximately caused the resulting injuries and damages to Plaintiff.

IX. Deceptive Trade Practices Act

Plaintiff will show that Defendant used or employed false, misleading or deceptive acts or practices in the sale or marketing of the subject vehicle or its component parts. In addition, Defendant breached its express and/or implied warranties. Further, the conduct of Defendant amounted to unconscionable action or course of action, and was committed knowingly. Moreover, Plaintiff is entitled to recover court costs and reasonable and necessary attorney's fees as a result of this action.

X. TO THE COURT ONLY

By an instrument in writing, Plaintiff assigned to Farmers Insurance Company, a company authorized to do business in the state of Texas, that portion of this cause of action herewith asserted that does not exceed \$11,729.15. This assignment took place before the filing of Plaintiff's petition. Under the terms of the assignment of this cause of action, Farmers Insurance Company received the right to file suit in the name of the Plaintiff. Farmers Insurance Company has elected to prosecute this cause of action which was assigned to it in the name of Plaintiff, thus said insurance company is the Plaintiff in this cause of action. This

paragraph is not to be read to the jury nor is the fact of this assignment to be known to the jury.

XI. Prayer

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that Defendant be cited to appear and answer, and that upon final trial Plaintiff has judgment against Defendant for actual damages, damages permitted under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, court costs, prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the legal rate, attorney's fees under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and for such other relief to which law and equity may allow.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

DÓN W. KOTHMANN State Bar No. 11693500 AMY C. WELBORN State Bar No. 24012853

CHAMBERLAIN MCHANEY 301 Congress, 21st Floor Austin, Texas 78701 (512) 474-9124 (512) 474-8582 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS SECTION



National Document Center P.O. Box 268992

NW

Oklahoma City, OK 73126-8992 claimedocument@facmetainautance.com

Fax: 877-217-1389

02/01/2005

Ford Motor Co Attn: Shawn Norton. P.O. Box 6248 MD-3NE-B Dearborn, MI 48126

FEE 1 0 245

Re:

Our Insured:

Loss Date:

08/30/2004

Claim Number:

099 SUB

Total Amount Owed: \$12,592.81

Dear Ms. Norton

A review of the facts of the above loss indicates that your product failed and caused damage to our insured's property. We have made payment to our insured for these damages, and now seek reimbursement from you. WE RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU NOT RESPOND TO OUR REQUEST WITH A FORM LETTER.

You will find this correspondence and its enclosures contain substantive information and support adequate for your firm to make a decision concerning your liability.

The entities in the stream of commerce, such as you, a manufacturer, are liable in both negligence and product liability. As you know, your obligation is to properly design and test, manufacture, and give appropriate instructions for installation and use of your product.

Your product did not meet the expectations of my insured, the consumer. Your product failed and caused the loss resulting in damages of 12,592.81. Attached are documents substantiating payment.

It is our desire to settle this claim without causing you the additional time and cost of litigation or arbitration. After reviewing the enclosed, please call me to discuss resolving this matter. FORD MOTOR COMPLAY

Sincerely,

Farmers Texas County Mutual Insurance Company

Scott Sheffield

Auto Subrogation Representative

Sou SMI

ERES-885-LC-8282

788 1 5 2005

OF RULE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



2470 Cray little Price Smite 280 Horston, Tienes 77077-45/68 281,496,2865 (plume) 281,496,9604 (fee) 800,210,7268 (toll fee) premett @Hashing (althal) www.premetgraty.com

REPORT OF FINDINGS

Claim No: Date of Loss: 08/30/04

VEHICLE FIRE EVALUATION

INSURED: 1999 FORD F150 HERITAGE

Prepared for:

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP 480 NORTH SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY EAST SUITE 320 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060

Randy Callison, ASE, CFEI, CVFI

Project Manager

October 15, 2004

ProNet File No. 7599

ER85-805-LC-0263

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L INTRODUCTION

On August 30, 2004, a fire occurred involving a Ford vehicle. On September 28, 2004, The ProNet Group, Inc., was retained by Mr. Kevin Phillips of Farmers Insurance Group to inspect the vehicle and determine the origin and cause of the fire.

On October 4, 2004, The ProNet Group inspected the vehicle at Insurance Auto Auction, located at 2535 West Mount Houston Road in Houston, Texas. During this visit, the vehicle was inspected and photographs were taken to document our observations. The observations described and pictured in this report are representative of the conditions observed during our visit. This report will not reflect all conditions of the vehicle, but will demonstrate typical conditions observed. All photographs are available for review.

The cruise control deactivation switch electrical connector was collected during this inspection and is currently stored by ProNet.

IL BASIS OF REPORT

This report is based on the following:

- Inspection of the vehicle.
- Research of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
 records to identify any preliminary evaluations, engineering analyses, or
 recalls on 1999 Ford F150 Heritage trucks.

- Interview with the driver of the vehicle.
- Review of the fire record (see Attachment A).
- Information and observations as noted in this report.

This report is based upon information available to us at this time, and is not necessarily final. Should additional information be presented or discovered, we reserve the right to review and, if necessary, revise this report and our conclusions in light of that information.

III. CONCLUSION

Based on our findings and observations as noted in this report, it is our opinion the 1999 Ford F150 Heritage truck fire originated in the engine compartment and was caused by a resistant short within the brake pressure switch (cruise control deactivation switch) located on the top face of the brake master cylinder.

V. DISCUSSION

FIRE REPORT REVIEW

On October 4, 2004, we obtained the incident report from the Harris County Fire & Emergency Services, which states the following:

Responded to a reported to a vehicle fire. Upon arrival found a 1999 Ford F150 heavily involved. Fire was extinguished and we spoke with the owner. There were conflicting stories as to whether the truck had been driven or not and when

October 15, 2004 Page 4 ProNet File No. 7599

it had been driven last. Fire was determined to have started under the hood as the result of an electrical short.

INTERVIEW

On October 6, 2004, an Interview was conducted with ______and the following information was obtained:

- The truck had not been driven for two (2) weeks because the driver's side window was stuck in the lowered position.
- The truck had been running well with no recent repairs or warning lights.
- 3. On the night of the fire, a driver passing by pulled into the driveway and was blowing their hom. went outside and the driver told her that the truck was on fire. Flames were coming from the left front wheel well. Called 911. The fire department arrived ten to fifteen minutes later. The truck was completely engulfed when they arrived. The firemen on the scene stated that it appeared to be an electrical fire.

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

The vehicle was identified as a black two-door 1999 Ford F150 Heritage extended cab truck bearing Vehicle Identification No. 1FTRX18L4XIII and Insurance Auto Auction stock No. 937175.

VEHICLE INSPECTION

Our inspection of the Ford truck revealed:

- The exterior of the truck exhibited a burn pattern consistent with a fire that originated in the engine compartment. Specifically, the majority of the hood was void of paint.
- The passenger compartment did not have any evidence of burn.
- The engine compartment exhibited a progressive moderate mid to upper level burn that was more intense in the left third of the compartment.
 Specifically:
 - a. The components in the right third section of the compartment had evidence of only mild surface level burn.
 - b. The components in the center third section of the compartment had evidence of a greater degree of burn, with surface burning and some components being partially consumed.
 - c. The left third section of the compartment exhibited evidence of the most intense burn in the area of the brake master cylinder. The brake fluid reservoir was consumed and the master cylinder was in the early stages of melting. The cruise control deactivation switch mounted on the top face of the brake master cylinder had evidence of intense burn. The electrical wiring to the switch had fallen away, the wiring was void of its insulation and did not evidenced fusing of the wire strands; however, the electrical connectors had fused together. Closer

inspection of the deactivation switch revealed beads of copper in the interior of the switch. The switch and the fused electrical connectors were removed and taken into evidence.

RECALLS

We searched the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) database to identify any preliminary evaluations, engineering analyses, or recalls on 1999 Ford F150 Heritage trucks relating to engine compartment fires.

A search of their records, as well as technical service bulletins, did not indicate any problems relating to cruise control deactivation switch failures resulting in engine compartment fires within 1999 Ford F150 Heritage trucks at this time.

SUMMARY

In summary, this Ford F150 truck fire originated in the engine compartment as evidenced by the burn patterns. Electrical short-circuiting at the electrical connector for the cruise control deactivation switch caused the fire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the 1999 Ford F150 Heritage truck be retained, secured and protected regarding any further testing or inspection by other interested parties. We also reserve the right to be present and observe any and all inspections or testing of the Mercury truck by any other concerned parties.

V. ATTACHMENTS

A. FIRE REPORT

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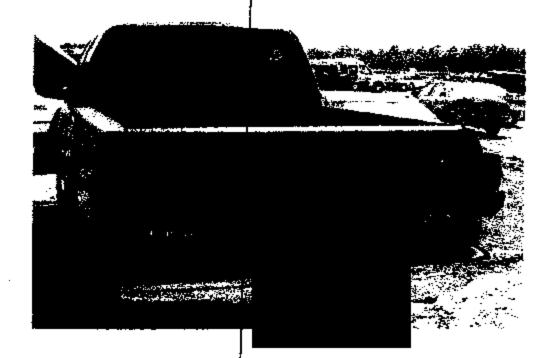
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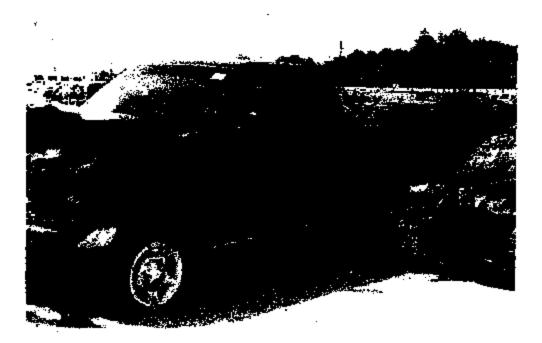
2. Rear view of the truck.



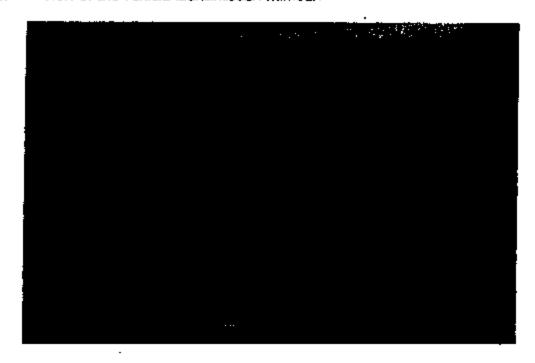
Front to rear view showing the left side view of the truck.



4. Right side view of the truck.



5. View of the vehicle identification number.



View showing the oil change sticker located at the top left side of the windshield.



Left to right view of the front passenger compartment.



8. Overview of the bood.



9. Overview of the engine compartment.



10. Right to left view of the engine compartment.



11. Left to right view of the engine compartment.



12. View showing the right side of the engine compartment.



13. View showing electrical wiring in the left side of the engine compartment.



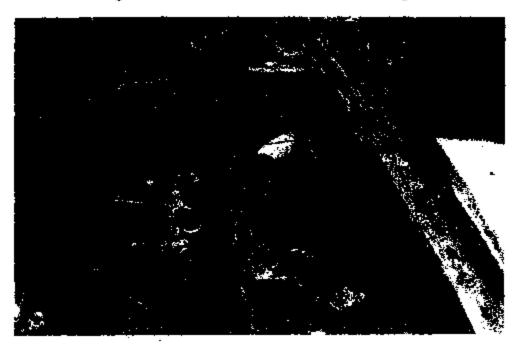
14. View showing electrical wiring in the left side of the engine compartment.



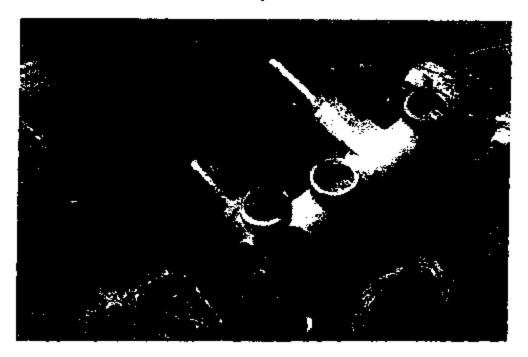
15. View showing electrical wiring in the left side of the engine compartment.



16. View showing an intense burn at the left side of the engine compartment.



17. View showing the brake master cylinder.



18. View showing the cruise control deactivation switch.



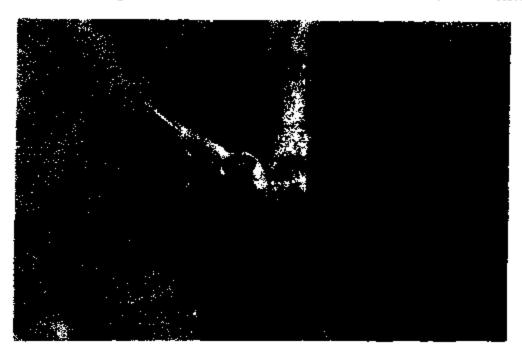
19. Another view showing the cruise control deactivation switch.



20. Another view showing the cruise control deactivation switch.



21. View showing the cruise control deactivation switch electrical connectors.



22. View showing the cruise control deactivation switch electrical connectors.

