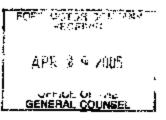
April 25, 2005



Ford Motor Company Consumer Affairs PO Box 6248 MD-3NE-B Dearborn, MI 48126

Re: Company Name- Integon General Insurance Corporation

Instared-

Claim Number

Policy Number- 8062300 Date Of Loss- 04/15/2005

Your Customer-I

Your Reference Number- 1FTDX1764W

VIN Number)

Payment Amount- \$10,375.00 insured Deductible-none

Total Subrogation- \$10,375.00

Dear Ford Motor Company:

Our investigation of the accident described above discloses that we are entitled to recover from you for the damages to our insured's vehicle. Our investigation has determined that a defective speed sensor (cruise control module) was the cause of this fire.

Our insured has been paid under the terms of their policy, and they have assigned us their right of claim.

Enclosed is our proof of damages. We request payment within 30 days. We will forward the deductible to our insured.

Sincerely,

Steve Gurnell

Claims Representative

Integon General Insurance Corporation, a GMAC Insurance Company

GMAC insurance Steve Gunnell PO Box1429

Witston Salem, NC 27199-0001 (888) 233-4575 23022 www.GMACInsurance.com

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B3		1 Bulk storage or warehousing 2 Processing or manufacturing 3 Packaged goods for sale 4 Repair or service
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2 Involved in ignition, but did not burn		hrson report attached
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City of Concord Fire Dept

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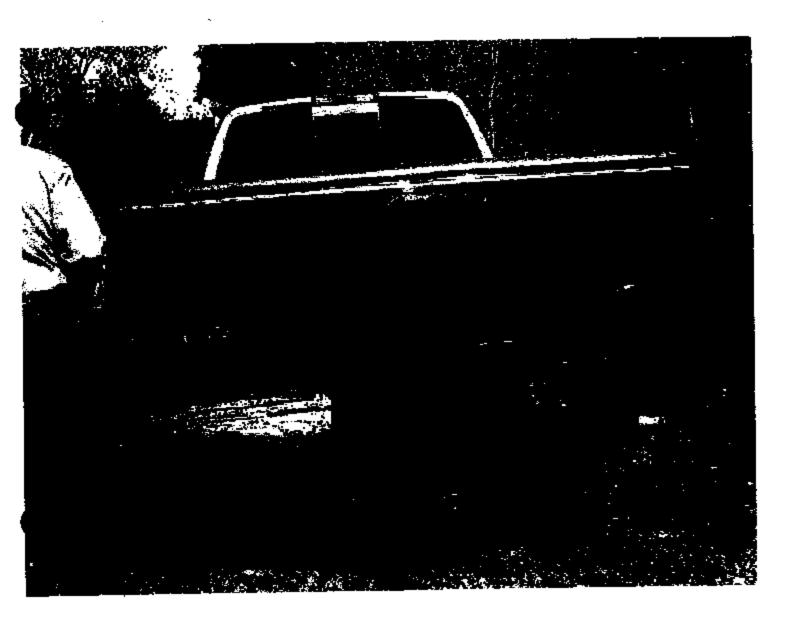






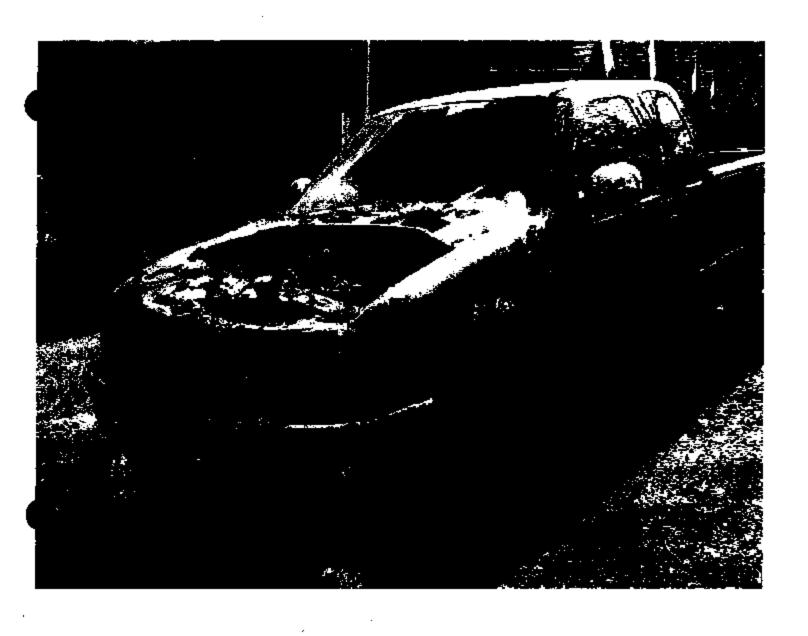














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P.O. Box 22-9085 Hollywood, Florida 33022-9085 Phone: (954) 316-5100 1-(800)-BRISTOL (274-7865)

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FORD MOTOR COMPANY RECEIVED

MAY 2 4 2005

C##40E OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

May 11,2005

Ford Motor Corp. 3 Park Lane Blvd. Suite PTW300 Deerborn, MI. 48126 Attention: Shawn Norton.

Re: Our Claim

Our Insured

Date of Loss: 03/02/05

Vehicle: 1998 Ford F150 Truck

Vin #1FTZX17WOWK

Your Refer #: Unknown

Dear Shawn:

Please except this as our notice of our rights of subrogation demand. Our Insured above vehicle had caught on fire caused by cruise control module to caused the engine to catch fire which may or may not had a recall on.

Enclosed please find our supporting documents our total demand is \$9437.80 please send your check payable to Bristol West Insurance Services.

I can be reached directly at 1-800-537-2133 X1298 or 954-316-5200 X8011298.

Senior Subrogation Specialist

For: Bristol West Insurance Company

Engine 10 Fire Agency: St. Lucie County Fire Rescue INCIDENT #: 050006184 EXPOSURE #: 000 INCIDENT LOCATION: Block Address Saint Lucie, FU Census Tract: INCIDENT TYPE: 131 Passenger vehicle fire ALARM: 03/26/2005 21:50 DISPATCH:03/26/2005 21:52 IN ROUTE:03/26/2005 21:52 ARRIVAL: 03/26/2005 22:06 CONTROL: 03/26/2005 22:11 LAST UNIT CLEARED: 03/26/2005 22:42 ACTION TAKEN: 11 Extinguish; 86 Investigate; RESPONDING UNITS: PRE-INCIDENT VALUE [Property:\$10,000 Contents:\$50] LOSS [Property:\$10,000 Contents:\$50] Suppression [Apparatus: 2 Personnel:6] EMS [Apparatus:1 Personnel:2] OTHER [Apparatus:1 Personnel:1] Nojię"; HACMAN RELEASE: N None MIXED PROPERTY USE: NN Not Mixed PROPERTY USE: 965 Vehicle parking area Legd-Grew Member: McElheny, Charles - 317 EMT JT65814 Crew Member 2: Gonzalez, Herman - 505 EMT JT78727 Zoge-Gesponded to: INVOLVED BUSINESS/PERSON: INVOLVED PERSON: Port Saint Lucie, Fi OWNER: Unknown <u>Unkacen</u> Port Saint Lucie, F OTHER APPARATUS AND PERSONNEL: INVOLVED: Living Units: 0 Buildings: 0 Acres: 0 SIGNIFICANT ONSITE PRODUCTS: Name AREA OF FIRE ORIGIN: 83 Engine area, running gear, wheel area HEAT SOURCE: UU Undetermined TTEM FIRST IGNITED: UU Undetermined FIRE CONFINED TO OBJECT OF ORIGIN: Yes TYPE MATERIAL IGNITED: 23 Gasoline CAUSE OF IGNITION: U Cause undetermined after investigation FACTORS CONTRIB. TO IGNITION: None **NUMAN FACTORS CONTRIBUTING: N None**

Page #2

Incident Number:050006184;

Date: 3/2/2005; Pedent: FIRE, REPORT

FIRE SUPPRESSION FACTORS: None

EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IN IGNITION: None

MOBILE PROPERTY INVOLVED: 10 Passenger road vehicle, other, F0 Ford, F-150, 1996, G-THANG, FL, Unknown

REMARKS:

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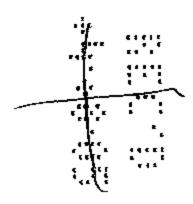
ENGINE TEN RESPONDED FROM 914 JOHN MACORNMACK TERR. . ENGINE 13 ON ANOTHER CALL.UPON ARRIVAL FOUND FORD F-150 FULLY INVOLVED.VEHICLE WAS IN DRIVEWAY NEAR HOME, NO DAMAGE TO HOME.VEHICLE 100 % LOSS. OWNER STATES HE HAD NO PRIOR PROBLEM WITH VEHICLE, STATES HE HAD PARKED IT SOMETIME PRIOR TO FIRE.EXTINGUISHED WITH 1 3/4 LINE.NOTE ARRIVAL TIME DELAYED DUE TO RESPONSE ADD OF FIRE UNDETERMINED.

CREW SIGNATURE: McElheny, Charles - 317 EMT JT65814 (ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE)

tbl_incident_data.incident_date 3/26/2005 12:00:00 AM : 3/2/2005 12:00:00

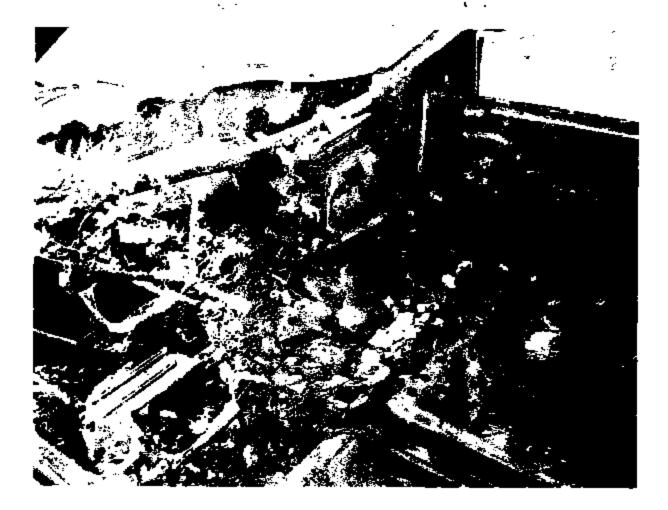
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ISSUE LIST

Lest Handling Date/ Issue Status	Name/ Reason Deac	Vin/ Case No.	Model Year and Vehicle Line	issue Type
3/22/2005		1FTZX17WOW	998 F-SERIES	02
CLOSED	LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY	418480815		

All Action Details for Issue

Print

Case: 418480815

VM: 1577Y17W0W

Year: 1998

Model: F-SERIES

Name

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSD: 1997-11-21

Symptom Desc: FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME UNDERHOOD

Issue Type: 02 INFORMATION

Reason Desc: LEGAL - INSURANCE COMPANY SETTLEMENT

Action: ADVISE CUSTOMER TO CONTACT THEIR INSURANCE COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE

Primary Phones

Origin Desc: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Issue Status: CLOSED

Secondary Pho

Dealer:

Odometer: 118000 MI

Comm Type: PHONE

Analyst Name: NATASHA MARCELL

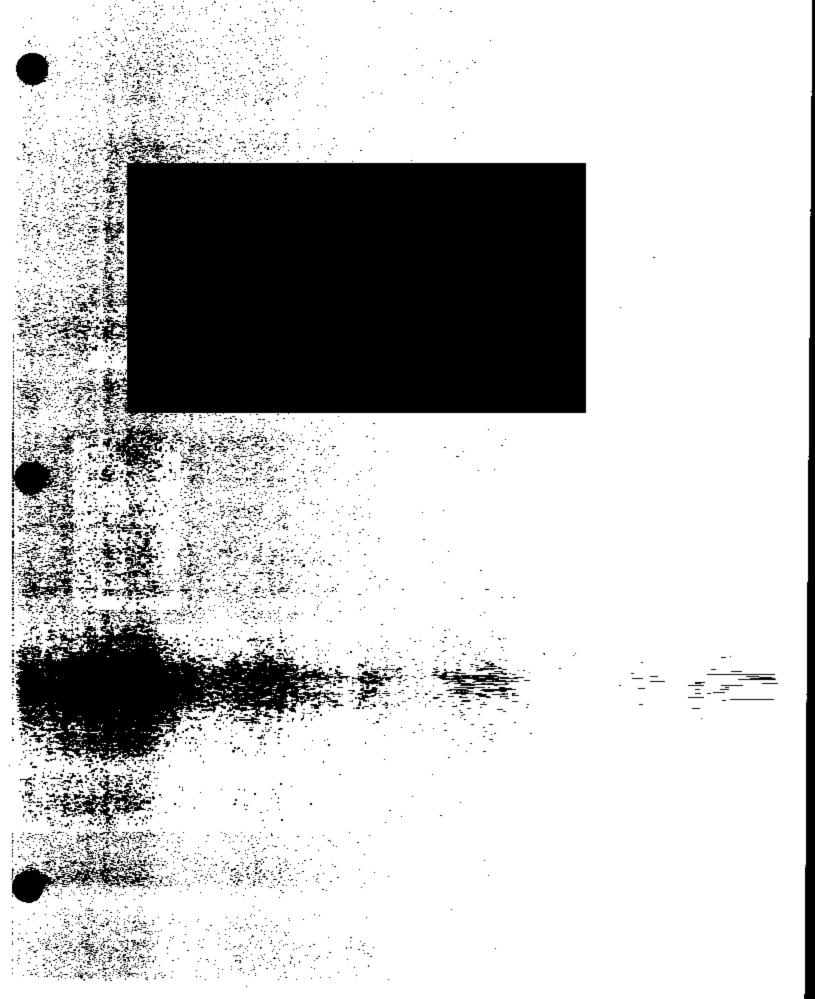
Analyst: NMARCEL2

Action Date: 03/22/2005

Action Time: 11.37.27.861

Action Date: No

Comments CUSTOMER SAID: -THE VEH CAUGHT FIRE IN HIS DRIVEWAY-FIRE STARTED UNDER THE HOOD FROM THE ENGINE PART-YEHICLE WAS TURNED OFF-NO DAMAGE DONE TO THE HOUSE-VEHICLE HAS BEEN TOTALED OUT-CLAIM HAS NOT BEEN PAID AS YET- CALLING TO NOTIFY FORD TO SEE WHAT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN-CRC ADVISED: YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY HAS THE RIGHT TO PURSUE CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT 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.





Nationwide® On Your Side®

Yew

 $H_{M_{\ell}}$

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

May 6, 2005

Ford Motor Company
Parklane Towers West – Suite 3
Three Parklane Boulevard
Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Attn: Shawn Norton

Re: 63 claims relating to cruise control recall

- DOL: 10/19/04

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 Koenek. 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.

Chaig Mabbett

Subrogation Manager

FORD MOTOR CONFIRM

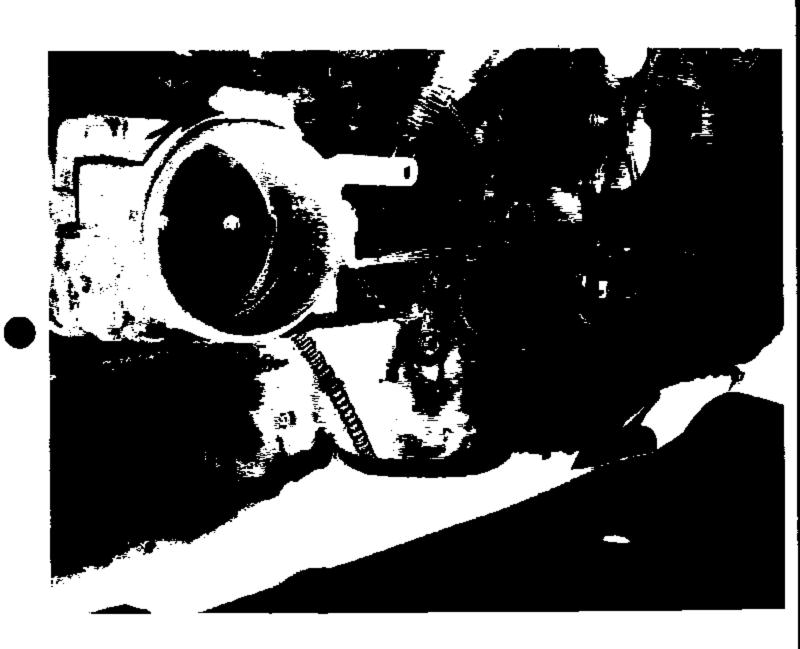
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FULKERSON, FEDER & WOLLAM

A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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1776 YORKTOWN, SUITE 840 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056 TOPEDER®LAW-PFW.COM TELEPHONE (713) 225-3400 TOLL FREE (877) 225-3401 FACEMILE (713) 225-3300

May 10, 2005

Mr. Bernardo S. Garza Callier & Garza, L.L.P. 4900 Woodway, Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77056

Re: Ford F-150

Dear Mr. Garza:

Via Facsimile



I have been retained to represent the second of the second

It appears that this fire is the same type of fire that has affected numerous Ford trucks and led to the recall of earlier this year, related to the cruise control/brake pressure switch apparatus. I would ask Ford to inspect this vehicle and compensate for the total loss of his vehicle. Below is the information on this truck:

VIN#1SPRX17W91N

Plate No.: 2001 F150

Address: Osbbalto & Sylvia Cabezas,

HOUSTON, TX

The vehicle is available for immediate inspection. Please let me know when Ford wishes to examine this truck. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please call me if you have any questions.

PROFILE STATE OF STAT

Very truly yours,

FULKERSON, FEDER & WOLLAM, L.L.P.

Todd C. Feder

TCF/ms

ĊC

Client





State Farm Insurance Companies®



Tuscalosca Claim Office 525 Energy Center Blvd., Suits 1604 Northport, Al. 35473

April 26, 2005

FORD MOTOR COMPANY
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
PARK LANE TOWERS WEST
3 PARK LANE BLVD SUITE 400
DEARBORN MI 48128



Notice of Subrogation

Re:

Claim Number

Date of Loss City/State of Loss

Insured Vehicle VIN

Mileage

April 11, 2005

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

2001 Ford F150

2FTRX16W41C

Approximately 50,000

Ford Motor Company:

This notice is to advise of a loss that occurred to our insured vehicle and/or property. The damage was caused by a fire related to a failure of the speed deactivation control switch.

Our Investigation indicates that Ford is responsible for this loss. By virtue of our payment, we are entitled to recover from the responsible party. Please consider this letter as our demand to Ford for reimbursement of \$19,413.75 which includes our insured's deductible.

Any settlement by Ford with State Farm's policyholder with respect to the above described design issue must not prejudice our rights as subrogor, and shall not be released by the execution of a general Release with such policyholder.

In order to assist you in evaluating and processing the subrogation claim we are asserting, we may provide nonpublic personal information from our customer. We are sharing this information to effect, administer, or enforce a transaction authorized by the consumer. However, you are neither authorized nor permitted to: (1) Use customer information we provide for any purpose other than to evaluate and process the subrogation claim; or (2) Disclose or share the customer information we provide for any purpose other than to evaluate and process the subrogation claim.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY 01-6609-879 Page 2 April 26, 2005

Your cooperation is appreciated. If you should have any questions or would like to set up an appointment to inspect the evidence/salvage, please feel free to contact me at (205) 345-6418.

Attached is additional information related to the file.

Sincerely

Brian Galloway Claim Representative Phone: (205) 345-6418

State Farm Fire & Casualty Company

013/0426025AL

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ALABAMA UNIFORM INCIDENT/OFFENSE REPORT

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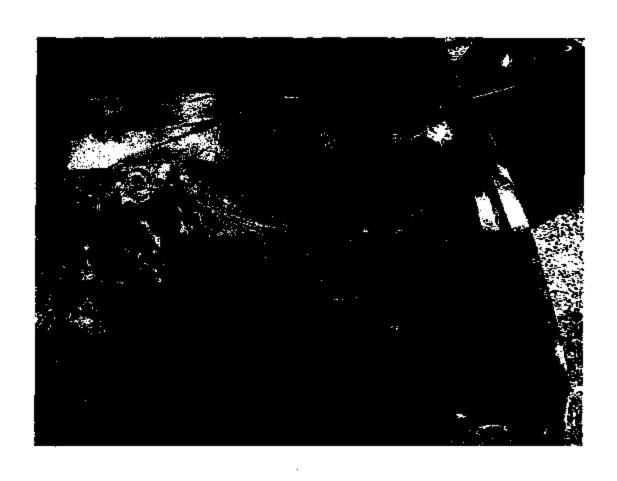
OFFICERS WORK PRODUCT MAY NOT BE PUBLIC SPORMATION INCIDENT/OFFENSE - SATI AND THE OF REPORT **₩ [] 07780**8 E CHECK F MATTERLE 16 30 REPORT CONTINUED OTH ITELOIS SUSPECT LEMBERS PERSON 0157014111111510 HM RACE DW III A DB II III A TAME (LAST, TRAT, MINOLE) **B** = Ŋ Acception (Infinitif, darry, 17: 416, 285) HOT TIS WELFOR 111 PROBLEM PROFITMATION 1th America ILA BON BANK TH CLOTHES IN WHENEO **30 500A4** ٠. TATOOS (WANTED A) 48% 0 4 0 4 ed Her M STREET, COTT, STATE, 28") DEN DEUNK 131 GLOTHANG de (1) Walleton ∰ BOARS CP TATOOR 2 YEARTED 15 BELFECKE W HAR BAST, PRINT, MINNEY, MINNEY, SEE, BACK, SOR Ma (14: 17 .: -. . . . ---साम्बर्ध संस्थ <u>oarhe</u>d <u>cought</u> ER65-885-LC-8261 m lei ma la ex Al pro THE CASE O G BZ J# CTF61 GLOSIO Campo Closio ____ REPORTING OFFICER MICEPRONIL CLEARANCE CTOSED TO HYDLING TO LINCOMO M SUPPLEMENTAL PROPERTY. <u>SJStelk</u> <u>1743</u> OTHER MOSEOUTEN CLEMAND BY MINEST (JUN4) EXTRADITION DENIED WG Helms CLEARED BY LACK OF PRICE SOUTHON

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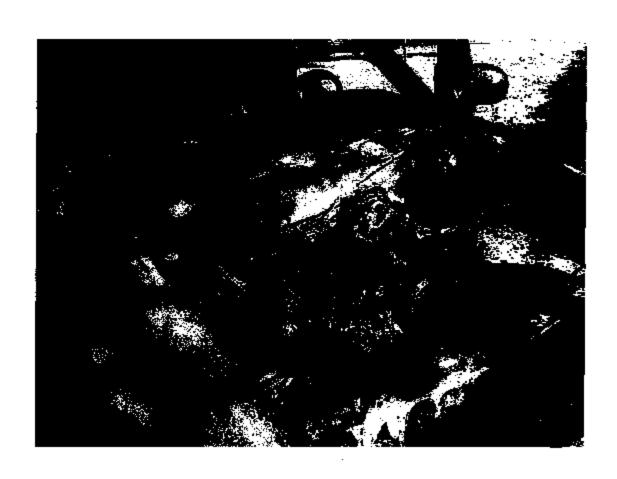




















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. Nationwide Insurance • 110 Elwood Davis Road, North Syracuse, N.Y. 13212 • 315-453-3594

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 heen 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.

Coug Mabbett

Subrogation Manager

EP05-005-LC-0276

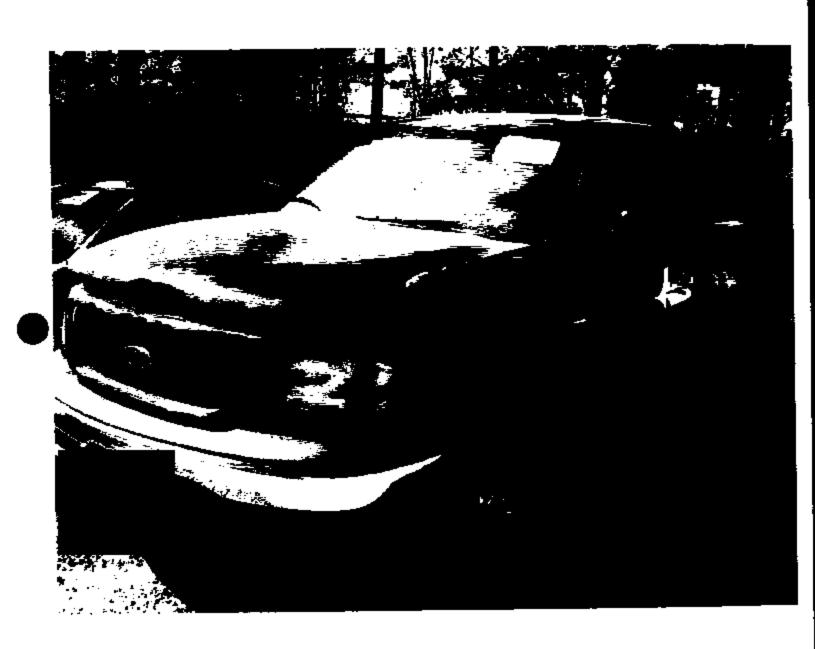
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FORD MOTOR COMPANY

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M. New

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

May 6, 2005

Ford Motor Company Parklane Towers West – Suite 30 Three Parklane Boulevard Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Attn: Shawn Norton

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2/4/ CORO MOTOR COMPANY
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MAY 1 5 2005

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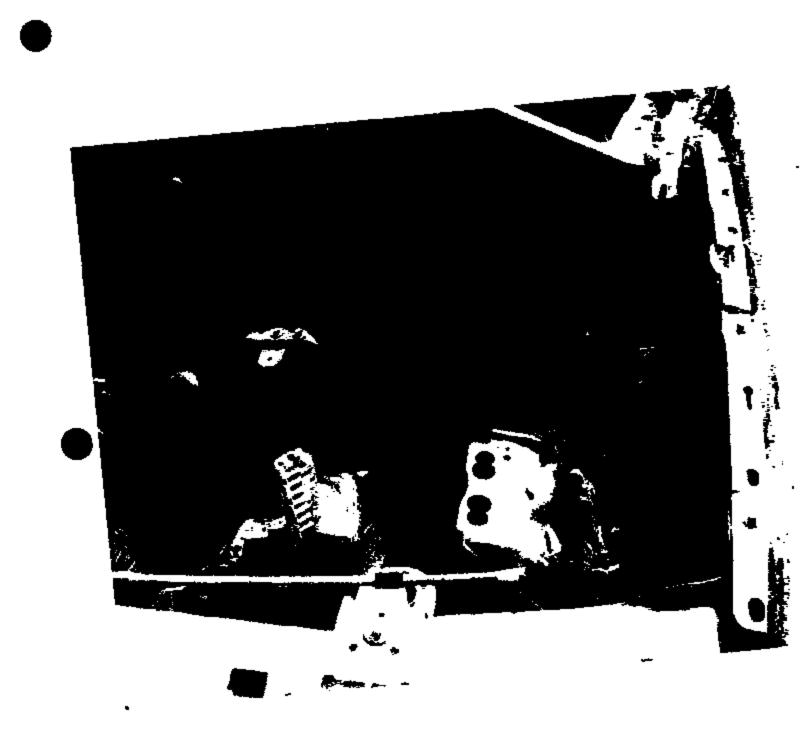
Craig Mabbett

Subrogation Manager















MVC-5945.JPG, Claim Number:

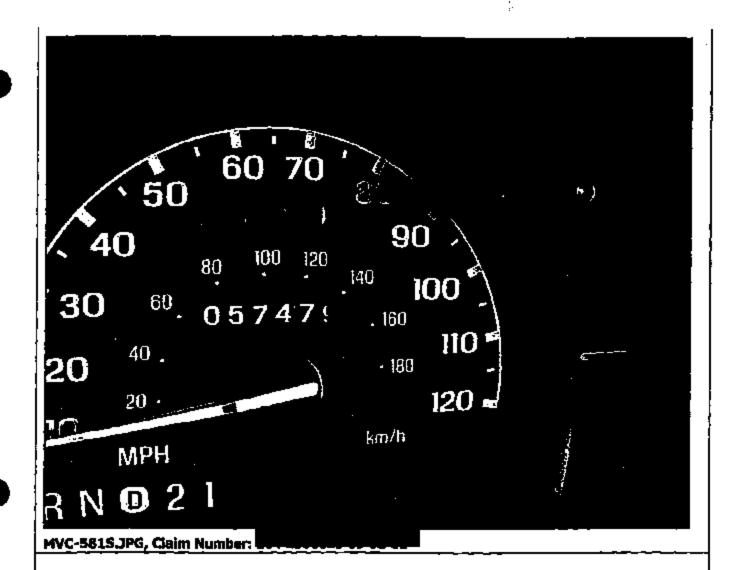
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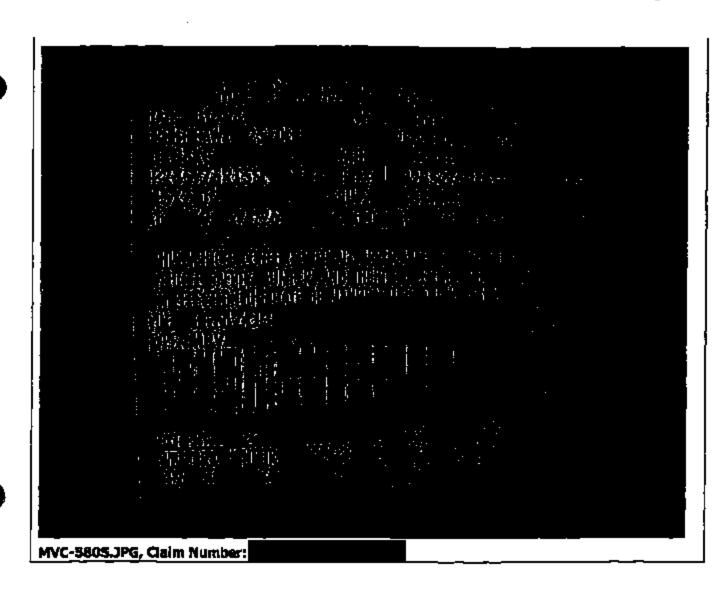
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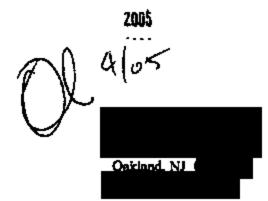


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Dear Mr. Norton.

Thank you for your response to my submitted documentation reguarding the fire loss to my 1996 Ford Bronco. I have filled out your required information sheet to the best of my ability, however, unfortunately, all service records were recorded in the owners manual of my vehicle, and were destroyed in the fire. As stated in the questionnaire, the vehicle mileage at the time of purchase was 31,000 miles, and at time of the incident, approximately \$2,000 miles. As can hopefully be seen in my "before" photo that was previously sent to you, this vehicle was my pride and joy, and meticulously maintained. To the heat of my ability and knowledge, i can only offer to you the following information in reguards to maintenance records. The only serviceable problem this vehicle ever had was being that it was purchased with a 4WD sytem that did not function. This was taken care of, under warranty, by the same dealership the truck was purchased through. As far as scheduled maintenance is concerned, every aspect was performed by myself. This would include oil changes every 2,500-3,000 miles, and I believe either two or three tuneups, with the latest being at approximately 75,000 miles. I can not stress enough, that this was an absolutely trouble free, strong running and reliable vehicle with absolutely no given warning of any mechanical or electrical malfunctions.

In response to your questionnaires requests for photographs, and expert reports, these items have already been submitted to you in my previous mailing. However, if any more information is needed, please feel free to contact me, either by mail, or by the telephone number above. Thank you for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,



Office of the General Counsel

PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

Pord Mater Company
Parkisne Towers West
Suite 300
Three Parkisne Souleverd
Deartionn, Michigan 65125-2868

March 9, 2005

Oakland, Ń.		
Oaxiano, M		

Re.:

-RUM :

DOL: September 19, 2004

Vehicle: 1996 Bronco

Oear

We acknowledge receipt of your recently submitted documentation dated February 7, 2004 (2005). Please excuse the detay in our response as I was out of the office for much of February due to illness. Also, we thank you for the opportunity to address this concern in a timely manner.

First, if your insurance company wishes to pursue a claim with Ford Motor Company for the dwelling damages austain, please have them submit a claim to my office as well.

In Order to process your claim, please provide the following information:

- 1. Original color photographs of the vehicle's collision/fire damage & the alleged detective parts, trom eaveral different angles.

 Please be advised that while we appreciate your photoe submitted, we will require additional photos of the alleged defective component / area. You may be able to get these from your insurance company. Please let us know.

 2. Attach a conv of your expert's recort and the expert's original photographs. If one was made your
- Attach a copy of your expert's report and the expert's original photographs. (If one was made you may also be able to get a copy of this from your insurance company.)
- 3. Altach the complete service history for the subject vehicle, including any tune-upa or of changes.

Please answer the following in the space provided. If you need additional space, please use the back of the form;

- 4. What was the mileage at time of occurrence: 86,000

 5. Has the alleged defective part been repaired or replaced? (circle one) Yes or No.
- Mass the expect booties of the vehicle and the alleged detective parties?

What is the current location of the vehicle, and the alleged defective part(s)?
 (Your insurance company should have this information)

Vehicle Usys Rampad From Premiss by
7. List all after market additions or modifications that were made to the vehicle.

(973) 478-6522

ER85-885-LC-18232

Bancho 4" Suspension Lift of Marmarket L	<u> الرود</u> لم
35" Lires, KAN Air Filter notions battery	
Ford Motosports guidle Cover.	
Was this vehicle purchased new or used:USED	
If purchased used, provide the date of purchase, mileage at the time of purchase, and from	m whom
the vehicle was purchased: Fetic For A C) Fto w NJ	
31,000 mikes 7/00	

Please be advised that all necessary steps must 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 fest 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 flugation ensure from this informal ctains.

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 and/or testing at this time. But even in that event, Ford Motor Company will insist that all components claimed to be detective are maintained and preserved for trial.

Sincerely,

Shewn L. Norton Claims Analyst

Fax (313) 845-4089

8.

Oakland NI

February 7, 2004

RE.: DOL

September 18, 2004

Vehicle

1996 Ford Bronco

Dear Mr. Norton:

Thank you for your prompt reply reguarding this matter. Upon reading, I would like to take this opportunity to both add some clarification, and also provide you with additional information reguarding the vehicle, and the sequence of events before and after the incident in question.

In review of the attabed police report, It had actually been exactly three weeks to the day, not two, since I had so much as even started the vahicle. I was awakened by a neighbor at my door at approximately 12:45am, who informed me that the vehicle was on fire. I stepped out of the house and observed the front of the vehicle engulfed in flames, and re-entered my home to call 911. As the connection was being made, an officer was already at the scene. It was the quick reaction by all officers and fire personnel that saved me from the complete loss of my home.

With regulard to this matter having been turned over to my insurance company. I was only able to make a claim through my homeowners policy for damage done to the house in and of itself. They in turn authorized a fire investigator to inspect the vehicle, and did recieve an oral confirmation of an "electrical fire which started near the firewall in the engine compartment" With only liability coverage on the vehicle though my automobile insurance, I was unable to make a claim, the vehicle was a total loss, and it was removed soon after from my residence. Enclosed are some photographs taken the day after the incident showing the complete loss of the vehicle, and damage to my home. I feel obligated to mention that there had been absolutely no problems or malfunctions ever noticed with this vehicles electrical system until the morning in question.

I am seeking recovery of the fair market value of my vehicle in addition to the \$500 deductable that was paid by myself to my homeowners insurance for the subsequent damage to my home. I have not, and will add, will definitely prefer not to seek legal counsel as to invoke personal, additional costs.

I have always held Ford vehicles, and service in the highest reguard, and hope to have this situation remedied in an extremely cordial and timely matter.

Sincerely,

Adiabaal I Becontore

1 44

POLICE DEPARTMENT DAILY EVENTS BOROUGH OF OAKLAND

295 RAMAPO VALLEY ROAD NJ 07436-0000 (201)337-6171

Nate: 9/23/04	(201)337-6171	T	ime: 10:38AM
OCA #: 0136959 Dept No:	How reported: 1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Date reported: 9/18/2004 Tir	me reported: 0045	Weather co	ndicions: R
Occurrence date: 9/18/2004 Occu	prrence time: 0045	OW: 7 Grid	code: N
Address of occurrence:		<u></u>	
Occurrence location:			
Leirs code: 4010 Fires			
Time dispatched: 0045 Time Ar	cived: 0047 Time	Cleared: 02	30
Dispatcher: 0903 DE LA ROSA, JO			Priorty: 0
Disposition: HANDLED BY OVED			
Details: REPORTED CAR FIRE NEXT	TO HOUSE-NJ REGYES	20	
Officer Number offi	icer Wame	Lo.	· · ·
0052 BLDRIDGE, 0 0903 DE LA ROSA, 0039 CAKLAND VOI 0056 MC DERMOTT, 0029 WALKER, DAN	JOHN M LUNTEER FIRE DEPARTM EDWARD R	PRIMARY (INIT. CA) ASSISTING ASSITNG (SUPERVER	LL-TAKER A AGENCY OFFICERS
{VICTIM/COMP/SUSP/OFFENDER}	Vict/Cmplnt	DOB	Phone
INKNOWN CALLER	COMPLAINANT	1 1	(000)000-000
OKANGE AND ROCKDAND ELECTRIC	MVA-VEH OWNER OAKLAND ASSISTING AGEN	/ /	0000-0000
BERGEN COUNTY ARSON SQUAD-PROS. OF	FICE OBJ NOTIFICATI HACKENSACK		0000-0000 (000)000-000
YEBICLES INVOLVED;	Plate St	VIN	
Controlling 1			

[COMMENTS]

REPORTED CAR FIRE IN THE DRIVEWAY NEXT TO THE HOUSE AT AND AND ALONG WITH THE OVFD AND ORANGE AND ROCKLAND ELECTRIC, NKNOWN CAUSE WHY FIRE STARTED, IT WAS FULLY ENGULFED WHEN OFFICERS ARRIVED, BERGEN COUNTY ARSON SQUAD WAS CALLED BUT DID NOT RESPOND BECAUSE IT DID NOT FIT THEIR CRITERIA, FOR FURTHER INFO SEE OFFICERS REPORT-TAPE 8455 TAPE FOR 104-2225

. . . .

9/18/2004

INCIDENT SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

3 1

Time:

*7

6:25PM

POLICE DEPARTMENT BOROUGH of CAKLAND 295 RAMAPO VALLEY ROAD NJ 07436-0000 (201)337-6171

CA #:0136959 Dept No.: Adress of occurrence:

Date Reported: 9/18/2004 Time reported:0045

Date of Report: 9/19/2004

fficer: ELDRIDGE, CHRISTIAN J

'NARRATIVE'

WHILE ON PATROL WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF OAKLAND ON 9/18/04 AT APPROXIMATELY 12:45 A.M., I WAS DISPATCHED TO, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY LOCATED ON PATROL, A CAR FIRE AT 553 RT 202. UPON ARRIVAL, I IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED HO TO CONTACT THE OVER AND INFORMED THE DISPATCHER THAT THE VEHICLE WAS FULLY ENGULPED IN THE DRIVEWAY, PARKED NEXT TO THE HOUSE. AFTER CALLING OUT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION, NJ REG. YE362D TO HQ, I LOCATED THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE, MICHAEL PESCATORE 553 RT 202 CAKLAND, WHO WAS STANDING JUST INSIDE THE DOORWAY TO HIS RESIDENCE. I ASKED PESCATORE IF THERE WAS ANYONE FLEE IN THE HOUSE AND HE STATED THAT THERE WAS NOT. I INSTRUCTED TO EVACUATE THE PREMISES AS THE FIRE WAS NEARING THE HOUSE. Went back inside momentarily to get his dog, then walked over to his MEIGHBOR'S KOUSE.

BY THIS TIME, PTL RYAN C'KERFE HAD ARRIVED ON SCENE WITH A MEMBER FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. O'KEEFE AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBER, JIM VULGARIS, ATTEMPTED TO KNOCK THE FIRE DOWN TEMPORARILY BY USING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. I WENT TO THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS HOUSE AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO EVACUATE ALSO, AS THE FIRE WAS NEARING THEIR HOUSE.

WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, ROCKLAND ELECTRIC WAS NOTIFIED TO RESPOND TO REPAIR POWER LINES THAT WERE DAMAGED DURING THE COURSE OF THE FIRE. I POSITIONED MYSELF IN THE MEIGHBOR'S YARD AT THE CORNER OF RT 202 AND NAVAJO AND BY USING A GARDEN HOSE WAS ABLE TO KEEF THE PIRE OFF OF THE VICTIM'S GARAGE.

AS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS BATTLING THE FIRE, I WAS ABLE TO QUESTION THE VICTIM MOMENTARILY. PESCATORE ADVISED ME THAT HE HAD NOT STARTED HIS 1996 FORD BRONCO FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO --- TONIGHT. THE WERE NO KNOWN MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WITH THE VEHICLE, AND TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE VEHICLE SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT FIRE.

WHEN SGT WALKER ARRIVED ON SCENE, I ADVISED HIM OF THE ABOVE AND TOLD HIM THAT THE FIRE, IN MY OPINION, WAS SUSPICIOUS IN NATURE. SOT WALKER CONTACTED THE BERGEN COUNTY ARSON SQUAD AND WAS INFORMED THAT THE FIRE DID NOT MEET THEIR CRITERIA FOR RESPONSE.

AFTER SECURING THE SCENE, ALONG WITH THE OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, I RESUMED PATROL.

							
To be	Unifor	mded [] Follow Up by Detect: Approved	ive 🗆	Case-Cleared Follow up Uniform Ptr	;; ;;	Not Cleared !	ng Officer
Page	<u> </u>	- Apple - ea					}
4							<i>0</i> ; ♣

Here attached are photo's taken of the vehicle in question. The first photo was taken approximately two months before the incident. Also included are addition photos of my other personally owned Ford Motor Company vehicles. I hope these photos not only show clearly the damage to the Bronco, but also express my personal preference and patronage to your company.

RECEIVED MAN S 1 2005

08.50.09

BEGINNING OF CONTACT u/29/2006

VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER TRACKING SYSTEM

REGION: 13 NEW YORK 1FMEU15HTTL VIN:

OGCISSUE ZONE: E3 engine:

VEH TYPE: т CASE NBR: OPENED: CLOSED:

STATUS:

0569620285 01/28/2005 01/28/2005

LAST NAME:

TITLE: AODRESS:

CITY: HOME PHONE: MODEL YEAR:

MILEAGE: DEALER NAME: REASON CODE: OAKLAND 1998

STATE:

FIRST NAME:

MODEL:

NJ

BRONCO WAGON

ZIP:

MI:

CLOSED

WYCKOFF FORD, INC.

0792 LEGAL - ACCIDENT / FIRE 704145 FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME UNDERHOOD

SALES CODE:

F13157

P&A:

04085

ORIGIN:

SYMPTOMS:

CACI38

US CONCERN CASE BASE COMMUNICATION: PHONE

705

CONTACT ADVANCED TO OGC

ACTION: DOCUMENT:

ANALYST: DDIARIO1 DARLENE DIARIO

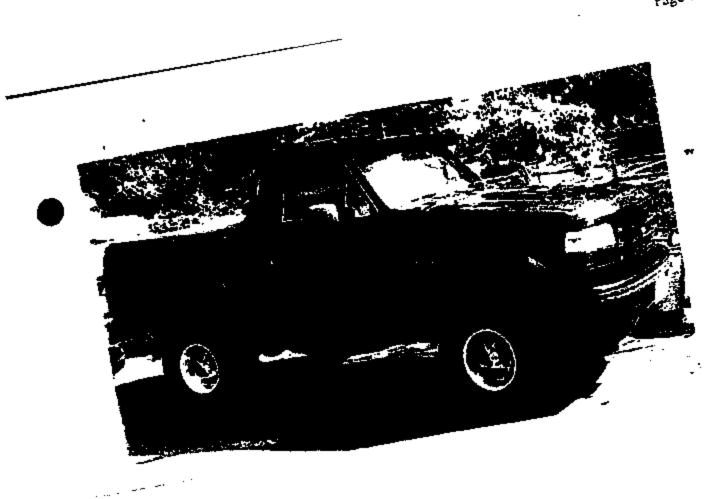
DATE: 01/28/2005 TIME: 15.49.21: ACTION DATA/COMMENTS:

> CUSTOMER SAID: - VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIG HT ON 09/18/2004 - FATHER DON'T KNOW WHERE FIRE ORIGINATED, S USPECTS FIREWALL & THE STEERING AREA. AS PER FIRE DEPT, FIRE ORIGINATED FROM ENGINE COMPARTMENT- VEH HAS BEEN TOTALLED -FIRE REPORT WAS FILED AT OAKLAND POLICE REPORT DEPT, FIRE R EPORT # 0136959- REPORT STATED THAT VEH WAS IN THE DRIVEWAY HAS NOT BEEN USED FOR TWO TO FOUR WEEKS & SUSPICIOUSLY CAUG HT ON FIRE-FIRE CAUSED DAMAGED TO ANOTHER VEH & STRUCTURAL DAMAGES TO SON'S HOME & NEIGHBOR'S HOME-FIRE WAS INTENSE EN OUGH TO BURN DOWN THE ELECTRICAL WIRES GOING TO THE HOUSE, T HERE IS VISIBLE FLAME- CLAIM WAS FILED WITH HOME AUTO INSURA NCE FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY, VEH HAS NO FIRE INSURANCE- INSURANCE PAID FOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGES ONLY- VEH WAS NOT RUNNING WHEN THE FIRE OCCURRED- SON PAID HIS DEDUCTIBLE- FATHER HEA RD ABOUT THE RECALL ON THE SPEED CONTROL THAT VEHS ARE BEING CAUGHT ON FIRE- NO PERSONAL INJURIES- INSURANCE COMPANY REQ UESTED FORD TO RESPOND & THEY DID NOT RESPOND. FIRE DEPT REQ UESTED ARSON SQUAD TO INVESTIGATE WHICH THEY DID NOT AS THEY FELT SITUATION DID NOT MEET THEIR MONETARY CRITERIA- FATHER WANTS TO FILE A CLAIM FOR THE VALUE OF THE VEH & ITEMS CONN ECTED WITH THE FIREDEALER SAID: WYCKOFF FORD, INC. 395 FRANK LIN AVENUEWYCKOFF, NJ. 07481PHONE: (201) 891-4445CRC ADVISE D: I WILL FORWARD THIS INFORMATION TO THE FORD OGC DEPARTMEN T. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED WITHIN 3-5 BUSINESS DAYS.

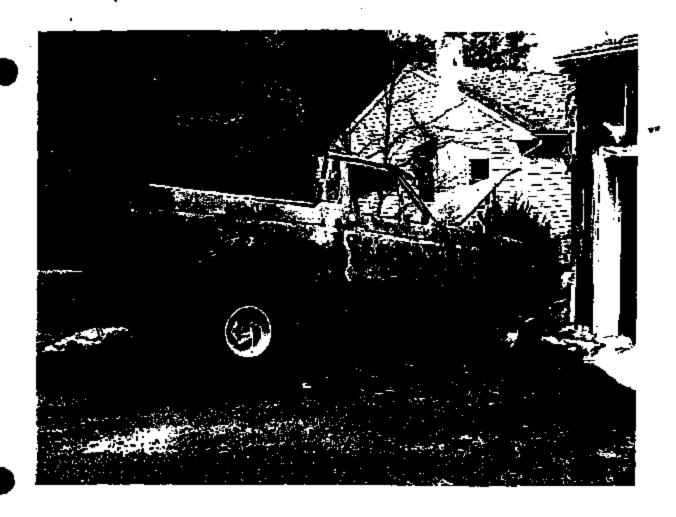
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> > > JAN 3 1 2005

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL



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2/5/05





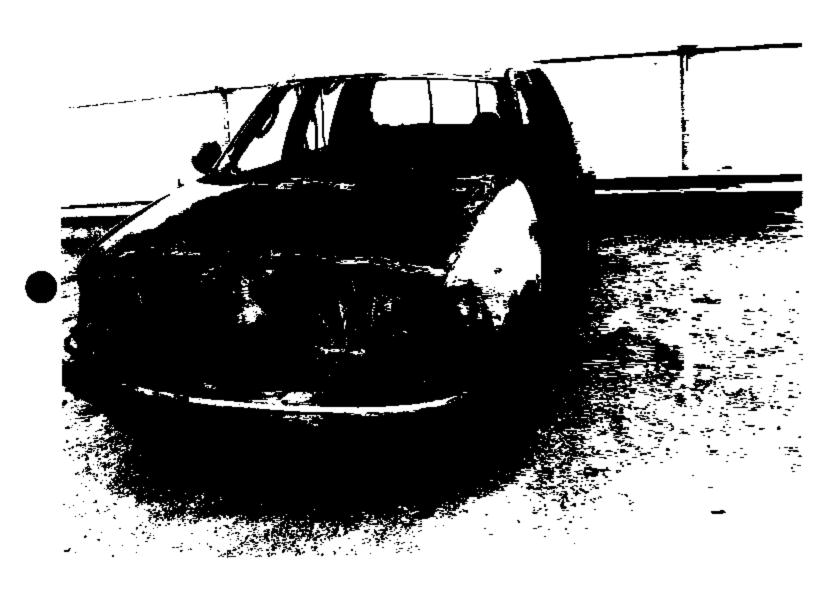




















All Action Details for issue

Print

VINE 1ETRW07WX1N

Year: 2001

Model: F-SERIES Case: 442100385

Name:

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSO: 2000-08-28

Symptom Desc: FIRE/SMOKE VISIBLE FLAME

Primary Phone Secondary Pho

Reason Desc: LEGAL - CUSTOMER WAITING FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Isaus Type: 02 INFORMATION

Issue Status: CLOSED

Action: CB-IT MAY TAKE 7 DAYS FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO BEGIN INVESTIGATE

Dealer: 06947 LONE STAR FORD

Origin Deac: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Odometer: 78000 Mil

Comm Type: PHONE

Analyst Name: HYLTON ROSEMARIE

Analysi: FHYLTON2

Action Date: 02/14/2005

Action Time: 15.18.00.235 Action Data: No

Caller Information if Different From Vehicle Owner:

First Name

Middle in Mai

TO 7 DAYS TO INITIATE, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THIS TYPE OF SITUATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR FORD

Last Name

Day Phone

Relationship FRIEND

THEDORE

PEREZ

Comments CUSTOMER SAID: -THE TRUCK WAS BURNT UP-WHEN HE SAW HIS TRUCK, IT WAS ALREADY ENGULFED IN FLAMES ALL OVER THE LOST \$5000 OF ITEMS THAT WERE IN THE TRUCK HE IS A BUILDER AND HE LOST SOME BLUEPRINTS AND OTHER MATERIALS-WHAT WILL FORD MOTOR COMPANY DO ABOUT THIS BESIDES ADDRESSING THE ISSUE OF THE TRUCK? THE INSURANCE COMPANY TOWED THE TRUCK ON SATURDAY-HE CALLED LAST WEEK AND IS STILL WAITING TO HEAR FRO, FROM THE LEGAL DEPT WITHIN 2 BUSINESS CAYS -HE HAS NOT HEARD ANYTHING FROM FORD LEGAL DEPTDEALER SAID: -NONE LONE STAR FORD INGB477 NORTH FREEWAYHOUSTON, TX 77037TEL: (281) 931-3300CRC ADVISED: THANK YOU FOR CONTACTING US IN RELATION TO YOUR ONGOING CASE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS MAY TAKE UP

MOTOR COMPANY, I HAVE VERIFIED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION TO ENSURE WE CAN CONTACT YOU WHEN PURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE OR REQUIRED.

All Action Details for Issue

Post

VIN: 1ETRW07WX1K

Year: 2001

Model: F-SERIES Case: 442100385

Name:

Owner Status: Subsequent

WSD: 2000-06-20

Symptom Desc: GENERAL INQUIRIES REQUEST/NON-VEHICLE RELATED Reason Dead: RECALL/ONP - VEHICLE INVOLVEMENT

Primary Phone: Secondary Pho

lasua Type: 03 GONCERN

Issue Status: CLOSED

Initial Customer Contact: 02/08/2005

Action: ADVISE CUST OF FSA/CSP; DOCUMENT CAMPAIGN NUMBER

Dealer: 06947 LONE STAR FORD

Origin Desc: US INQUIRY CASE BASE

Odometer: 78000 MI

Comm Type: PHONE Analyst: DVALENC1

Analyst Name: Action Date: 02/07/2006

Action Time: 12.22.01.130

Action Data: Yes

Comments CUSTOMER SAID: -NONEDEALER SAID: -NONECRIC ADVISED: PLEASE ADVISE THE CUSTOMER OF THE INFORMATION FOUND IN THE CUSTOMER LETTER OR THE SEARCH ENGINE QUA. PLEASE DOCUMENT ANY INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE TO THE CUSTOMER.REASON FOR THIS RECALL-THE SPEED CONTROL DEACTIVATION SWITCH MAY, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, OVERHEAT, SMOKE, OR BURN.-ADVISED CUST AS PER SPANISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS PROVIDED BY TL AND LCSR IN THE SPANISH DEPARTMENT FOR 01\$24

Deta Ejement Name	Date Value	
PSA/CSP CAMPAIGN NUMBER	01S24	
FSA/CSP CAMPAIGN NUMBER	05S28	

Action: CUSTOMER REFUSES TO HAVE WORK DONE

Dealer: 08947 LONE STAR FORD

Odometer: 78000 Mil

Analyst Name: JEFF STAPP

Action Date: 02/08/2005

Comm Type: PHONE

Analyst J-STAPP Action Time: 13.53.54.817 Action Date: No

Origin Desc: DEALER

Comments THE CUSTOMER WAS CONTACTED AND SHARED WITH THE DEALER THAT THEY WOULD BRING THE VECHICLE IN FOR THE RECALL TO BE COMPLETED.

Alf Action Details for Issue

Print

VIN: 1FTHW07WX18

Year: 2001

Жал

Owner Status: Subsequent

Model: F-SERIES Cage: 442100385

Symptom Desc: FIRE/SMOKE SCORCHED/BURINT PASSENGER AREA

W\$D: 2000-06-26

Reason Desc: LEGAL - ACCIDENT / FIRE

Primary Phone Secondary Pho

Issue Type: 07 LEGAL

Issue Status: CLOSEO

Action: ADVISE CUST INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO CONSUMER AFFAIRS - FIRE

Deplor: 06947 LONE STAR FORD

Origin Desc: US CONCERN CASE BASE

Odometer: 78000 MI Analyst Name:

Comm Type: PHONE Analyst: DVALENC1

Action Date: 02/07/2005

Action Time: 12.16.49.531

Action Date: No

Comments CLISTOMER SAID: -ON FRIDAY MY VEH CAUGHT ON FIRE WHILE PARKED IN MY SHOP-I HAD A FORD F-150 2001 WITH 78,000 MILES -THERE IS A POLICE REPORT # 050156-V, THAT REPORT WILL BE READY TODAY AND THE OFFICER NUMBER IS 713-865-9000 -THERE WERE NO INJURIES -THE VEH IS A TOTAL LOSS -THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO ANY PROPERTIES OR ANYTHING-I CONTACTED MY INSURANCE COMPANY ON FRIDAY, THEY WILL CONTAC ME TODAY OR TOMORROW-I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE INSURANCE COMPANY WILL COVER -I AM A CONTRACTOR AND I LOST THE LIST OF ALL THE PEOPLE THAT OWE ME MONEY AND THE JOBS THAT I NEED TO DO NEXT, I ALSO LOST THE DRAWS FOR THE NEW HOUSES I WAS GOING TO BE MAKING AS ALL THE DOCUMENTS WERE IN THE VEH-LAM NOT HAPPY ABOUT ALL THE DOCUMENTS THAT I LOST AND LIKED A VEH TO DRIVE I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN SPANISH PERSON TO CONTAC MEDEALER SAID: -LONE STAR FORD INC 8477 NORTH FREEWAY HOUSTON, TX -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.-CUST WANTS A SPANISH SPEAKING PERSON TO CONTAC KIM

Action: SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTER TO CUSTOMER

Dealer: 06947 LONE STAR FORD

Origin Desc: CONSUMER AFFAIRS - LITIGATION

PREVENTION

Odometer: 78000 Mi

Analyst Name: FONSEGA, LOURDES NEARON (L.C.)

Comm Type: MAIL Analyst LFONSECA

Action Date: 02/08/2005

Action Time:

10.05.52.761

Action Data: No

Comments LPA WILL SEND INSURANCE ALREADY INVOLVED LETTER, NO FURTHER ACTION.

Action: REFER TO INSURANCE CARRIER - INSURANCE COMPANY ALREADY INVOLVED

Dealer: 06947 LONE STAR FORD

Origin Desc: CONSUMER AFFAIRS - LITIGATION

PREVENTION

Odometer: 78000 MI

Analyst Name: FONSECA, LOURDES

Comm Type: MAIL

NEARON (L.C.)

Analyst: LFONSECA

Action Onte: 02/08/2005

Action Time: 10.08.12.480

Action Date: No

Companie LPA WILL SEND INSURANCE ALREADY INVOLVED LETTER, NO FURTHER ACTION.



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NUMBER <u>02-(-3)(0)</u> DIVC_

27™ JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

VERSUS

PARISH OF ST. LANDRY

FORD MOTOR COMPANY STATE OF LOUISIANA

PETITION

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, come plaintiffs.

and the full tage of majority domiciled in St. Landry Parish.

Louisians; STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY AND STATE FARM MUTUAL

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY, foreign insurers, authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisians, who, with respect, represent the following:

1.

Named defendant herein is FORD MOTOR COMPANY, a foreign corporation, authorized to do and doing business in the State of Louisiana, who is indebted unto plaintiffs, for the following, to wit:

2.

At all times hereto, and an area of the owners of a 1995 Ford

F150 pickup truck, identified by Vehicle Identification Number is IFTEF15N8SN

(hereinafter referred to us the " vehicle").

3.

On or about October 12, 2004, while the Experience vehicle was parked under the carport at the residence, a fire occurred in the 1995 Ford F150 causing substantial damage to the vehicle and the residence.

4.

The fire originated in the engine compartment of the 1995 Ford F150 and was caused by a defect in the speed control deactivation switch, the electrical system, and/or other detects submit the 1995 Ford F150.

5.

The 1995 Ford 1999 was designed, manufactured, assembled and sold by John Hord Motor Company.

Defendant, Ford Motor Company, is liable unto plaintiff for the following acts of negligence and/or fault:

- Manufacturing, assembling, marketing and/or selling a product which was unreasonably dangerous in construction or composition;
- Manufacturing, assembling, marketing and/or selling a product which is unreasonably dangerous in design;
- C. Manufacturing, assembling marketing and/or selling a product which is unreasonably dangerous because an adequate warning about the product was not provided; and
- D. Failure to adequately warn users of the risks/dangers of the product subsequent to acquiring such knowledge.

7.

At all times pertinent bereto, State Form Mutual Automobile Insurance Company insured the vehicle owned by the state of the damages sustained thereto.

8.

Pursuant to the terms of its insurance policy and as a result of the fire. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company paid to or on behalf of its insureds.

the sum of FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE AND 68:100 (\$5,879.68)

DOLLARS.

9.

At all times pertinent hereto, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company insured the residence owned by an advantage and provided coverage for the damages sustained thereto.

Iα

Pursuant to the terms of its insurance policy and as a result of the fire. State Forms Fire and Castality Company paid to or on behalf of its insureds.

HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THREE VND 46 100 (\$134.703.46) DOLLARS to date.

11.

Petitioners, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm Mutual to complete Insurance Company, are subrogated, legally, conventionally, and by the terms of the relation to the rights of against defendant, Ford Motor Company, there extent of payments made herein to or on behalf of

The home was completely destroyed in the fire entitled to the fair market value of her home.

13.

have suffered the loss of a multitude of items with tremendous sentimental value and should be compensated for that loss in an amount to be determined at trial.

14.

As a result of the negligence of defendants, patitioners. suffered damages, including, but not limited to, the following, to-wit:

- A. Mental pain and suffering;
- Relocation expenses and out of pocket expenses;
- C. Loss of wages;
- D. Inconvenience:
- E. Uninsured or underinsured property loss;
- Other damages which shall be shown at the trial on the merits hereof. F.

15.

Despite amicable demand, defendant has refused to reimburse plaintiffs for their loss.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray that after the proceedings are had berein, there be judgment State Form Fire and Casualty Company. in favor of plaintiffs and State Farm Munical Automobile Insurance Company, and against defendant. Ford Motor Company, for the sum of all damages proven at trial, together with legal interest from date of sale. attorneys' fees, and for all costs of these proceedings. Plaintiff further prays for all general and equitable relief to which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted:

HANNAH, COLVIN & PIPES 2051 Silverside Drive, Suite 260 Baton, Rouge, LA 70808 Telephone: (225) 766-8240

> RANSOM PIPES (#17748) JUDSON G. BANKS (#27369)

PLEASE SERVE:

Ford Motor Company through its agent for service C. T. Corporation Systems 8550 United Plaza Blv J Baton Rouge, LA 708(8)

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Government Employees Insurance Company **GETCO General Insurance Company**

GEICO Indemnity Company

GEICO Canualty Company

Criterion Insurance Agency, Inc. (Colonial County Mutual Ins.)



1-800-841-3000

4201 Spring Valley Road, Dallas TX 75244-3694

285 FEB 22 1 A 11: 03 1

February 14, 2005

Ford Motor Credit Consumer Affairs Department

A@MD - 3NE-B P.O. Box 6248

Dearborn, Mi 48126

RECEIVED

FEB 2 2 2005

Our Claim Number:

Our Insured: .

Date of Loss: 11/23/2004

VIN: 1FMZU84P1Y2

Year/Make/Model: 2000 FORD Explorer

Damage: Fire - Repaired

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

FEB 2 3 2005

GARAGE TO THE SEC

GEICO Amount \$7,602.15 Less Salvage Recovery None Rental 725.00 Insured Deductible None Total Subrogation Amount \$8,327,15

To Whom It May Concern:

We believe this claim was caused by the electrical problem in Ford vehicles detailed in your recall. This loss occurred because mechanical/manufacturer failure.

This letter will serve as our notice of our payment recovery claim and constitutes a sincere effort to settle this claim as required by conditions precedent to arbitration as stated by the Automobile and Property Subrogation Arbitration Agreement.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Ruby Campbell

Payment Recovery Examiner

800-841-5432 ext. 1642

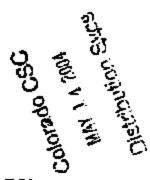


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LABORATORY NUMBER 031073



ENGINEERING ANALYSIS IS REQUESTED BY:

California Casualty Insurance 1650 Telstar Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Attention: Jim Rasmus

Reference:

Date of Incident:

File No .:

Subject:

November 17, 2003

104-1306029-09-02

Vehicle Fire



May 3, 2004

Laboratory Number: 031073

Reference:

Date of Incident:

November 17, 2003

ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

On December 3, 2003 an investigation was initiated in regards to fire in an engine compartment of a Ford Explorer. The fire occurred on November 17, 2003 on Tehachapi, California. According to the insured, the was driving over the Tehachapi Grade at the time that he witnessed smoke coming from his engine compartment. He stated that he was traveling approximately 60 to 65 miles per hour and the only weight load to his vehicle was a passenger and two suitcases. He further stated that some days prior to this trip he had taken his vehicle to a Ford dealership for maintenance and service. He indicated that the overdeive switch for his transmission was operating erratically. This fire was analyzed based upon an inspection of the subject vehicle and an interview of the driver. The purpose of this investigation was to determine the cause and origin of fire.

YEHICLE INSPECTION

Vehicle identification:

Year, Make, Model: 1998, Ford, Explorer

Color: Charcoal Gray

FORE-305-LC-18212



Transmission: 3 Speed Automatic w/Overdrive

Engine: 4 L V-6/DOHC EFI

V IN: 1FMZU32EOW2

License plate

Mileage: 57,479 Miles

The vehicle was inspected on December 4, 2003 that the Co-Parts facility located in Bakersfield, California. The subject Ford Explorer is shown in Figure 1. The rear of the vehicle is shown in Figure 2. The fire damage observed in this vehicle was confined to the engine compartment as shown in Figure 3. The driver side of the engine is shown in the foreground of Figure 4. This side of the engine compartment was minimally fire and heat damaged. The passenger side of the engine is shown in Figure 5. This portion of the engine and engine compartment were observed to exhibit the most fire and heat damage. The fire and heat damage appeared to be centrally located about the transmission dipstick as shown in Figure 6.

The underside of the hood liner in the area above this dipstick appeared to be saturated with transmission fluid leaving a residue marking pattern as shown in Figure 7.

The dipstick of the transmission was removed and its fluid condition and level was examined. The fluid level on the transmission dipstick is shown in Figure 8. The fluid appeared to be low, discolored and exhibited an acrid odor.

The underside of the transmission did not exhibit signs of fire damage as shown in Figure 9. There was evidence of fluid spillage underneath the vehicle and into the right front wheel well as shown in Figure 10 and Figure 11, respectively.



The overdrive button shown in Figure 12 was tested for functionality. During such testing it was observed that the overdrive light on the dashboard could go on and off with slight pressure applied to the button. During such operation the overdrive button felt to have a mechanical detent within it. The dash mounted overdrive light could be turned on and off without positively engaging the button detent.

<u>ANALYSIS</u>

Based upon the examination of the subject vehicle it has been determined that the cause of the fire was an overflow of transmission fluid from its dipstick. This fluid was ignited by the heat of the exhaust manifold which was located below the dipstick. This ignition is supported by the observation that the heat and fire patterns are most intense surrounding the dipstick and by the evidence of transmission fluid spray to the hood undersurface, directly above the transmission dipstick. Based on statements the vehicle was climbing a grade at the time the fire occurred. This was confirmed by examination of the typography maps for the fire occurred. The climbing of the grade would have put greater load on the engine and allowed the temperatures of the exhaust manifold to increase. The climbing of the grade would also have put a greater load on the transmission causing it to increase in temperature.

It has been confirmed that the overdrive button did not function properly in that it could be engaged and disengaged inadvertently, without engaging its mechanical detent. This may have allowed the driver to have inadvertently switched the transmission in and out of overdrive while climbing the grade. Driving in overdrive over the grade may have put a greater load onto the engine and transmission and allowed for greater heat



generation. As the driver indicated that just prior to observing smoke emanating from his engine compartment he heard a thunk-like sound in the transmission, there may have been mechanical damage within the transmission prior to the fire.

The possible causes that are cited for the overheating of the transmission and expulsion of transmission fluid onto the engine exhaust manifold are either low or over filling of the transmission fluid at the time of service and/or a failure of the transmission.

CONCLUSION

The cause of the fire was expulsion of transmission fluid onto the engine exhaust manifold. The transmission fluid would have been expelled from the transmission fluid dipstick either because of under or over filling of the transmission when it was last serviced and/or a failure of the transmission.

Respectfully submitted,

me Medel

Philippe Van Herle Professional Engineer California No. M31321

Reviewed by:

Paul S. Guthorn, MSME

Professional Mechanical Engineer M28649 Professional Metallurgical Engineer MT1845



Pigure

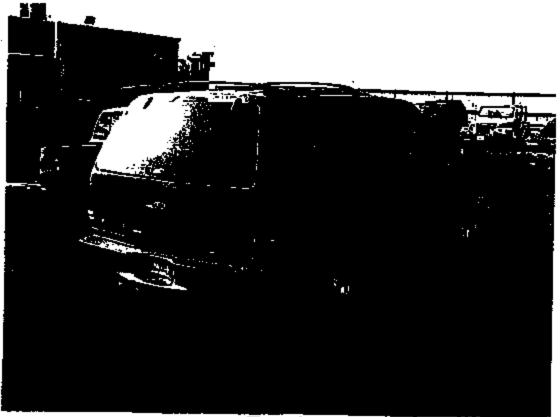


Figure 2



Laboratory 121073 Page 6



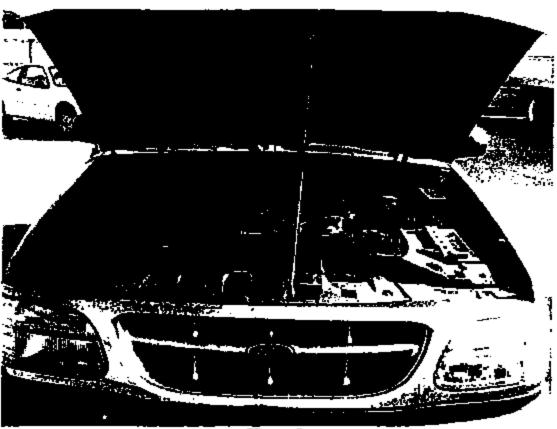


Figure 3



Figure 4



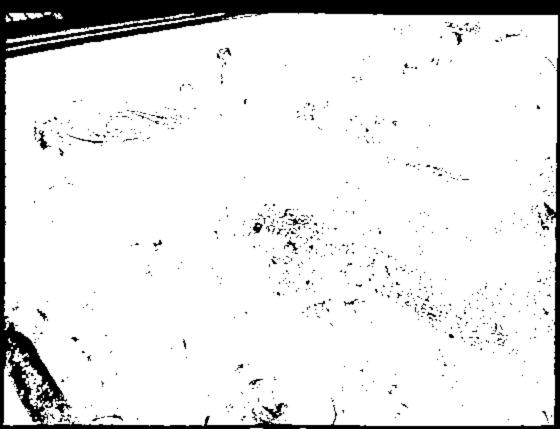


Figure 5



Figure 6





Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

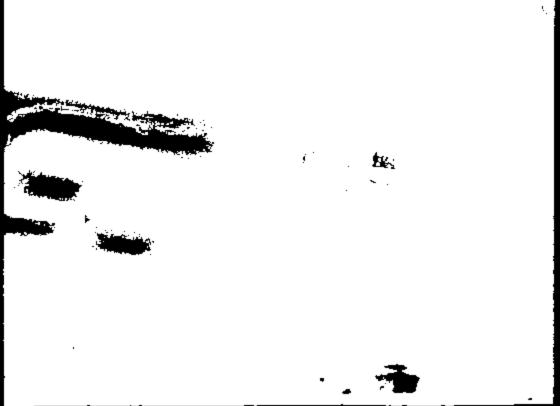


Figure 10



Figure 11

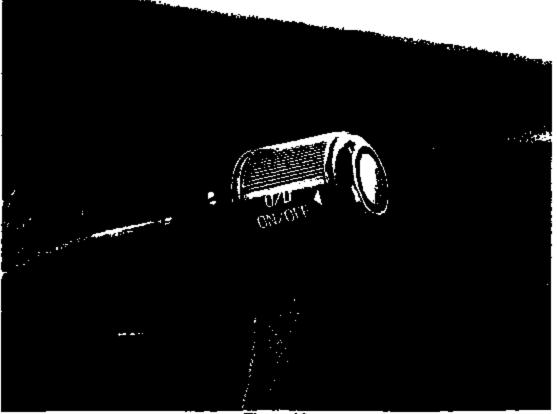
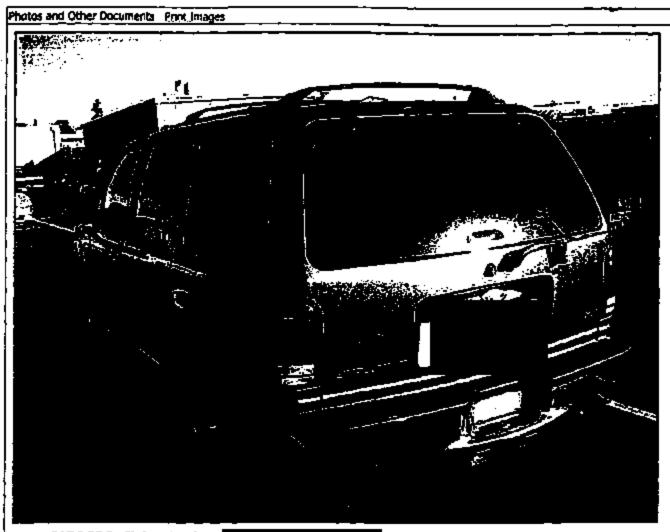


Figure 12



MVC-5975.JPG, Claim Number:



MVC-596S.JPG, Claim Number:

