December 19, 2000

Evidence available to establish cause:

Bum patterns,

Damage to components, elimination of other causes, witness testimony

All other mechanical and natural causes have been eliminated.

COMMENTS

Per your instructions at the conclusion of my verbal report this file will be placed In a closed status with the understanding it can be reopened at your request,

> Kelth W. Contant, C.F.I. Investigator Illinois/Missouri Service Center (630) 679-1505

KC/pk Encl. Closed

Reviewed by:

N Ruci

Insured

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION SHEET

1.	Frant of truck
2.	Passengers side of truck
3.	Rear of truck
4.	Orivers side of truck
5.	Rear license plate
6.	Drivers side front tire and wheel
7.	Passengers side front tire and wheel
8.	Fuel filler cap
9.	Burnt VIN plate
10.	Top view of the engine compartment
11.	Battery on the passengers side of engine compartment
12.	Battery terminal and connection
13.	Passengers side of engine
14.	Alternator and cable on the passengers side of engine
15.	Drivers side of engine
16.	Close-up of module on the front of engine on the drivers alde
17.	Power steering pump and drivers side of engine compartment
18.	Power steering pump and wiring harness from the interior of truck
19.	Close-up of frayed wires from the harness

- 20. Passenger compartment of the truck, dashboard area
- 21. Drivers floorboard
- 22. Passengers floorboard and shifter lever
- 23. Fuse panel under the dashboard
- 24. Close-up of the fuse panel
- 25. Wiring harness under the dashboard by the drivers side firewall
- 26. Beaded wiring at the end of the wiring harness
- 27. Close-up of the beaded wiring
- 28. Close-up of the beaded wiring

PHOTO SHEET

Pring dataranger

afabita inia garage.



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No. 2

PHOTO SHEET

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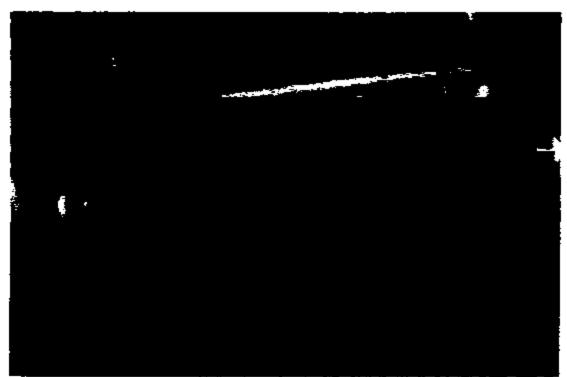


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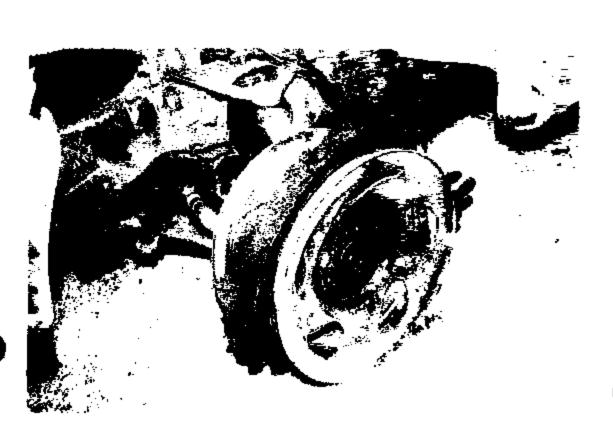


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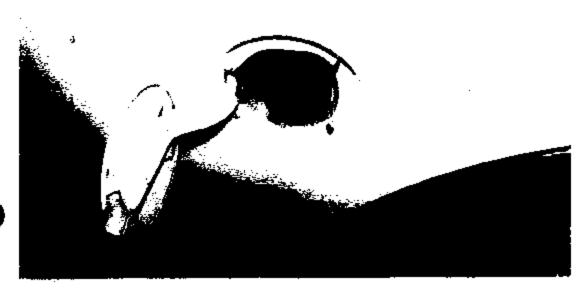
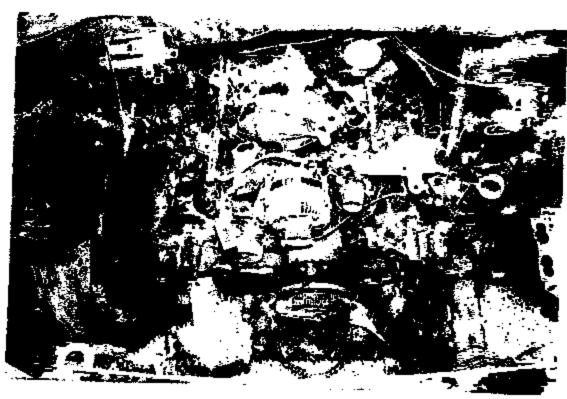


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PHOTO SHEET

EFI No. 94588-00262 insured:_ Hopp___



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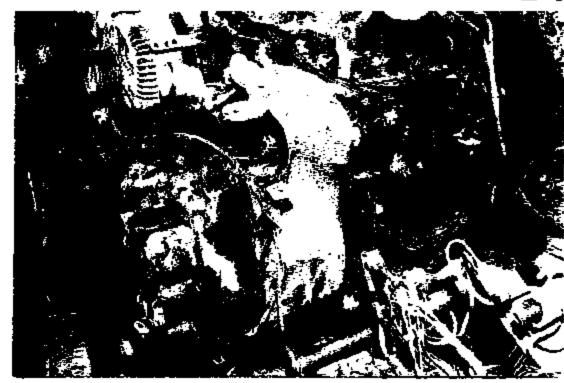
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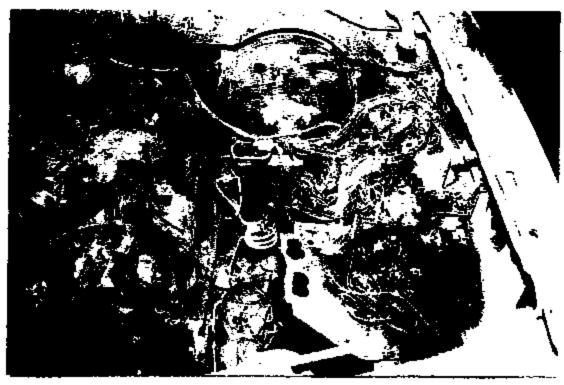


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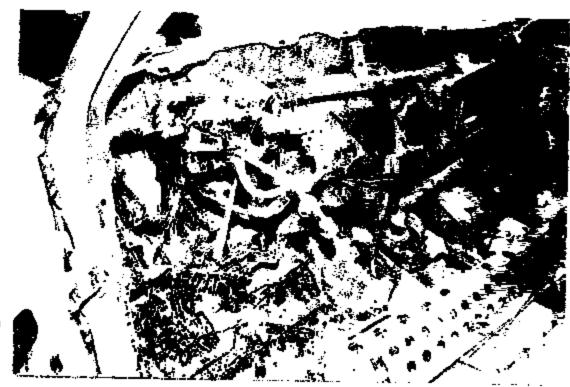
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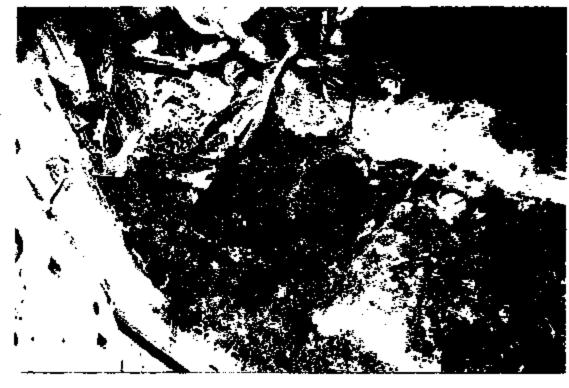
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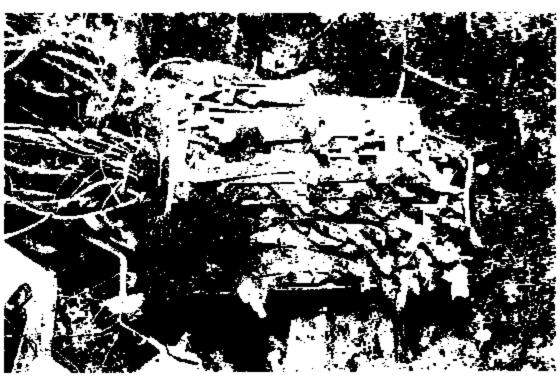
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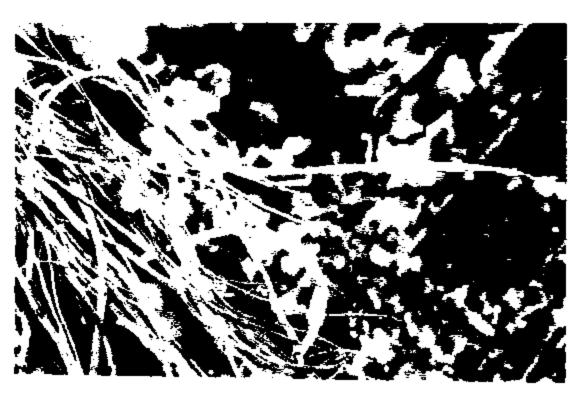
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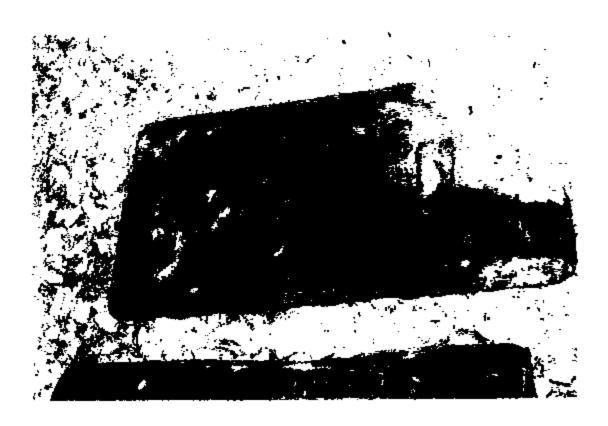
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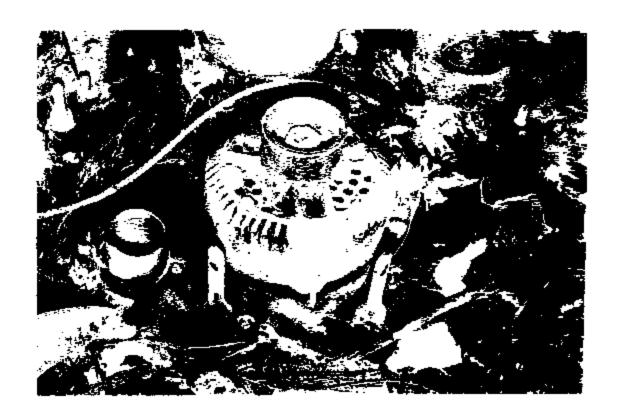
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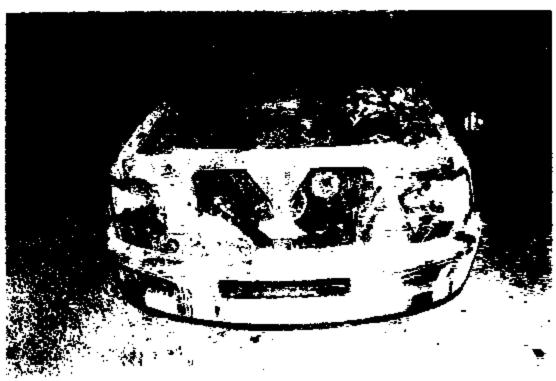














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State Farm Insurance Companies



P.O. 80x 798011 Dalls, TX 75379-9011 (868) 861-0327 Fax - (888) 257-6078



May 3, 2005

Ford Motor Co. Attn: Shawn Norton 3 Parklane Blvd Suite 300 Dearborn, MI 48126

RE: Claim Number:

Date of Loss: Our Insured:

Year/Make/Model:

VIN:

April 7, 2005

2001 Ford Expedition 1FMRU15LX1

Dear Ms. Norton:

This vehicle was insured by State Farm and involved in a comprehensive loss. The claim settled for \$16,410.86, which includes our insured's deductible.

Our investigation establishes the cause of loss was due to a fire loss in the engine area (see color photos).

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.

Flease consider this notice as our demand for reimbursement.

Yamela Davis - Team Claim Representative

(866) 861-0327 Ext.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

Enclosures

Apr. 14 2005 10:34FM P2 FROM ! Community Upl. Fire Department FAK NO. : 2815643268 MM 8 AAAA wile 30,509 01 2005 05-0001256 000 Seed. me pettelly dent in provided to the water the big Location* Mitroet sellens Tabagagaphi.etc In these or Houston. MANUSCRIPT TO Disrephicus. والإسلام وريونوسان Wight is post C Docident Sype * El Date 4 Migra E2 Shift & Ales 131 | Possesper vehicle fire Trend thousand Degr de Mar See Tester 91 91 Alema He 囡 04 1 07 D Aid Siven or Mostived+ 2005 09,27:00 - * thick or MINISTER CONTRACT, WARREST WARRANT OF AREA AND ARREST 1 Materia sid received 2008 10p : 31 : 60 E3 Marrian # 2 Milbouride 154 may. 3 DAMES HE STORE Character Spinispi, Philips for whiches from andal Stadi 4 Notematic ald gives Invalidador 1<u>94</u> 197 L 2005 | OP: 40:00 5 Other aid gives H Bross Their Lockton B · Ore wildham Mile Will thus or TOTAL VALUE 2005 |09:42:00 | Carried. F Actions Takes * G: Pasourosa * @g Estimated Poller tesses & Valu Clearly bight has and order bight and the lift of appropriate or statement from the being the common statement of the lift of MONTHS: Implement fact all Queen le manue, après que la manue, apr Firm materal or T,[[, [660 **6**001 Paletty's Action. Token 193 Properties | 0004 000], Soul | Extinguishment by fire PRO-PERSONAL MATERIAL AND ADDRESS. Perparty 81 070],[000 Britis Least Action Pales (3) Charles here for the property destroy . CONTRACTOR & 000[, **40**0 Completed Medalos Hit Carnel time Name Ha Wined Use Projez Engandous Materials Belouse Marie Marie Booths Injuries of Miles Sull Asset, a suntin **₹**7150-1 James y ver The state of the Series of the series 10 Bings-2 30 **□**@WL 25.00 €40,~4 2 Después part es 15 ani les ja les ma partir 3 Campline when the me protect of the little and the protect of the little and the little and the protect of the little and th **□ 34,74 Aust, Cus.-3** 经 4-476-6 **∏.PM-**\$ Madiagod mail Ī ∏Tubbat-7 logitud or Cutton ricus, ii 6. 6 Bestelekt: Trafficial test Military Mas-4 199 ----Military was edus atli ampagness spresse ma Personal-10 B Differs and Difference of the second of th Aren-11 والمراجعة الأثال T DATE OF 343 🗆 Clair, aftic Type Stillermy 889 🗖 Breedeld goods, sales jugales Structures J Property Deat 579 Distan Vehicle/heat as/my/popul 342 Desper/desiriet ettite | 131 [[Clares, 1514- of Winds] عن من بالنز بين العنام ويران النز بين إنسان من النز بين من النز بين عن عن المال المالية المالية المالية المالية 141 Dertalmet or expension 419 Ter Between desiring Epp Duringer addiso 162 (Par/Sarem en nighteleb 420 Design certify decising 615 | Richtlin Hemistin plant 615 | Schwidtey/Acides lab 213 🔲 Stanostory national our hillsdampurents 218 | Migh wheel as junior high 241 | Gallage, amil efficies 700 | Migration String plant: 918 | Livertonk/politicy strange (brant) 445 Commercial betal or notel 489 Periameter, house and earn 274 Date project by the shot 464 Patri tray/somethic 985 Recarding the balling brings \$10 Trees and berempe mis-991 🗖 WARRING cella. 236 Vetenb Let 981 Constitution alte 154 | Playerment or york 635 | Campa or explant 932 | Dender/Carry Sys piet of tred 946 | Zake, Mew, strong 844 🗋 Industrial plans yard 669 Probert (Mathematical) 607 Gertere America area 251 | Stationer mark of the 240 | Other states 241 | Sigherp/Modele backery MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR SERVICES AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY Supporty too MON

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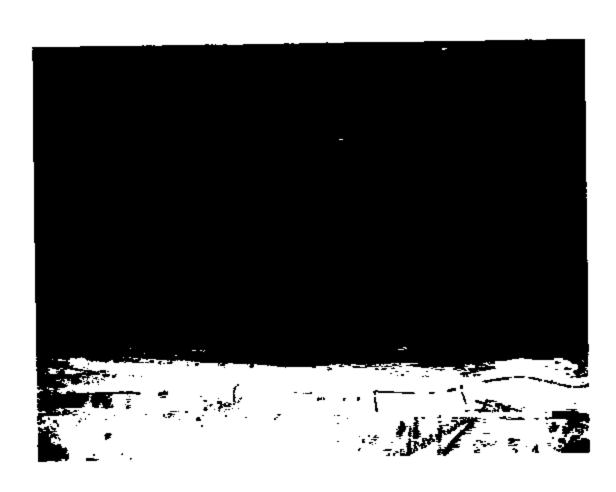
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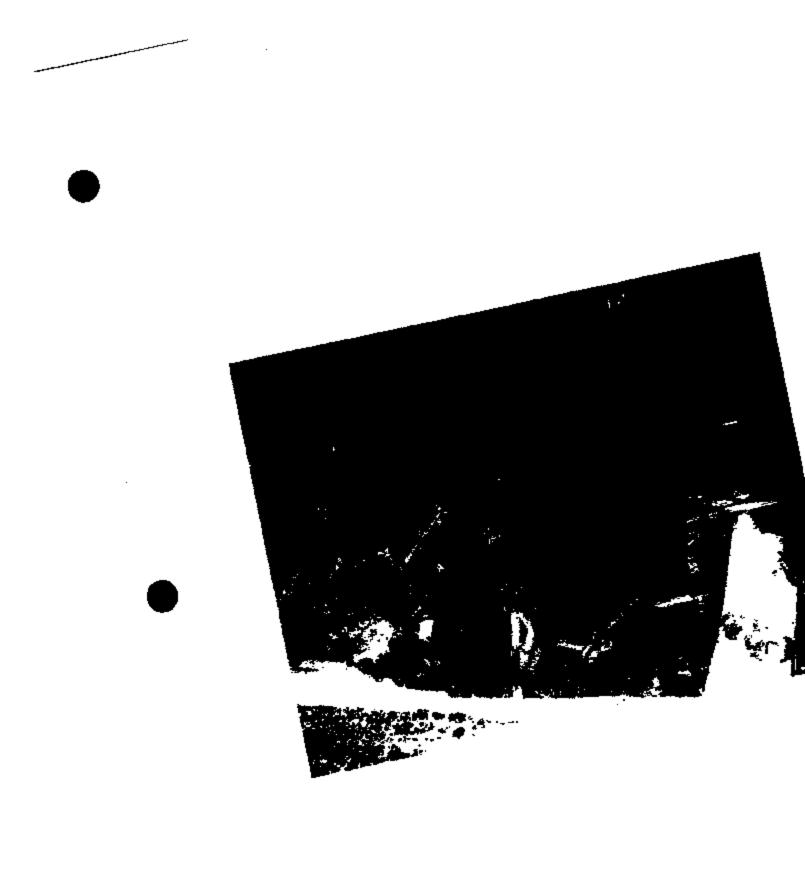
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Bruce Karns

INCIDENT REPORT Lake Alfred Fire Department

NFIRS-1

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BURLE WITTER

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NOTES

OWNER STATED THAT HE SMELLED SMOKE AND THE TRUCK STALLED OUT, HE PURLED OFF THE ROAD AND SAW THE FIRE, HE STATED THAT THE VEH, HAD BEEN IN THE SHOP WITH ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS, HE ALSO STATED THAT IT HAD A NEW ENGINE IN IT WITH ONLY THREE HUNDRED MILES ON IT.

JEFF ALLEN

BRIDE WHOM

Jan 2 3

HOBART M. HIND, JR. Tampe Nind@hbplew.com



ATTORNEYS

GLAIMS UNIT FEB 1 2 2000

OFFICE UF THE GENERAL COURS

 A^{-T}

February 7, 2000

Via Cartified Mal No. P 169 877 373 <u>and regular</u> U.S. Mell

Ford Motor Company - Office of the General Counsel Parklane Towers West Suite 400; Three Parklane Blvd.

> Our Insured: Re:

Dearborn, MI 48126-2568

Claim No.:

Date of Loss: Our File No.:

1/16/00 0480- t/b/d

Dear Sir/Madam:

This law firm represents the subrogation interests of Nationwide Insurance Company relative to a fire which occurred while was driving his 1998 Lincoln Navigator on January 16, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to place you on notice of a potential claim so that you can have an opportunity to conduct your own investigation.

On Sunday, January 16, 2000, a fire broke out in the vehicle while driving it. The fire caused damage in excess of \$30,000.

As the fire may relate to a defect in the vehicle manufactured by Ford Motor. Company, we are notifying you of this loss so that you may conduct your own investigation. The vehicle is currently being maintained at High Tech Auto Body, 3650 Havendale Boulevard, Winter Haven, Florida. Telephone number 863/967-5463. Further, we suggest that you <u>immediately</u> notify your liability insurance camer so it may take advantage of this opportunity. Your attention to forwarding this correspondence to your liability carrier would be appreciated. If you wish to conduct your own investigation, you merely need to contact the undersigned, and we will assist you in reviewing and examining the evidence.

Ford Motor Company February 7, 2000 Page 2

Thank you for your Immediate attention and consideration of this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

BUTLER BURNETTE PAPPAS

Hobart M. Hind, Jr.

co: Judy Bates Nationwide Insurance Company P.O. Box 147081 Gainesville, FL 32614 (Via Fax)

> Debbie Cunningham Nationwide insurance Enterprise 2901 West Busch Bivd., Suite 403 Tampa, FL 33616 (Via Fax)

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KEVIN E. CHOLAKIAN (S.E. \$103423)		! ·
TAMES C. CROO (S.H. #188119) CHOLARIAN & ASSOCIATES		1
5 Thomas Mellon Circle, Suite 105		1
Sen Francisco, CA 94134' ************************************	1	1
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management 700 Civic Center Drive West, Room D-110 mressroom P.O. Box 838, Santa Ana, CA 92701-0838		APR 2 8 2003
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DEFENDANT Ford Motor Company; Galpin Ford		BY II GAMBOA
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COSPLANT — Per Danage, W	tonal lajary, Property Inagful Death

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	10. The following causes of a current of a current of action affection in the current Nection in the current Necti	nce .	is above apply to each (a	ach completel must buve and e	or more
	11. Plaint@hea suftered a wage love b tota of see of pro c beepfal and seed	party		•	
	d parent desage e properly desage f loss of earling of g ther dessing of plaintiff's ins iPPRHO7Dlike an insurance po incurred desage	punty mage Subregation - As a urad's 2001 Ford T-150 the subject vehic licy between Plaintiff s totaling at least 33 and forweagh death and the relati	Harley Davidson the was desmed a 's insured and b 4,172.04.	n frack, Vin. total loss. Pursu Plaintiff, Plaintif	aut to
	15. The radial accepts in this co	rpisht is within the jurisdiction of the	ir courf.		
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	16. The paragraphs of th	is complaint allaged on information a	end belefan ar follows (i	rpsoffy principality manifesty:	E986-885-LC1-1838
	Dets: April 21, 2003			1 00	-2836
	James C. Choo	-		as Company	
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GHORTTIFLE V. Ford et	r #I		OKER HARRING
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was the legal (produced) course of changes to picktiff. By the inflowing acts or ordinates to sai, defendant manifestity caused the decoupe to picktiff on picktif. November 4, 2002 at \$65000 Holland Drive, Suntington Seach, CA 90808

(Negatipitae of resource for Patienty):

Defondants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in the maintenance, assembly, inspection, testing, manufacturing, distribution and sale of plaintiff's insured's vehicle and parts used in plaintiff's insured's vehicle. Defendants also had a duty to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in hiring, contracting, subcontracting and supervising of exployees, contractors and subcontractors in the performance of these services. As a direct and proximate cause of defendants' breach, plaintiff's insured's 2001 ford 1-150 Harley Davidson Truck, Vin. 177880751188 caught fire, resulting in a total loss, and causing plaintiff to induc desages pursuant to an antomobile insurance policy. The total amount of desages sought exceeds \$25,000.

Participant by the schill fraud of Colomb Wester, Joseph 1, 1962 Supply 1, 1962

CALISE OF ACTION - General Negligoros

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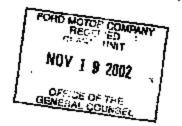
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Plantiff (parson)		CAUSE OF ACTION -	Products Liability	Pages
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CAUSE OF ACTION - Products Liability Lead open	-			Lead ores

State Farm Insurance Companies



11/13/2002

Ford Motor Company Attn: Howard Keyes-Mgr-Claims Dept. Parklane Tower West Suite 300 3 Parklane Blvd. Dearborn, MI 48126



Claim Office 333 Civic Drive "Off-Taylor Souleward" Pleasant Hill, California, 94523-1965

Mail: P.O. Box 4011 Corporal, California 94524-4011

Phone: (825) 680-4100

<u>VIA CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REOUESTED</u>

Claim Number:

Date of Loss: 11-4-02

Insured:

Valide: 2001 Ford F150 Harley Davidson Edition

Vin: 1FTRW07L11K

Donr Mr. Keyes:

The identified vehicle is insured by State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company. This vehicle was involved in an engine compartment fire loss. State Farm Insurance would like to give you an opportunity to inspect the damaged vehicle or parts. In addition, we would like to give you advanced notice of potential subrogation. Please contact me at 925-680-4155 to set up a time for your inspection. We request that the inspection occur within 15 days from the date of this letter so we may move forward with the resolution of this matter:

Sincerely,

Manuel Bento

Vehicle Investigator

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

333 Civic Dr.

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

(925) 680-4155

CC.

11/4/02 50 10/4/02 10/4/02



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RECOVERY DIVISION

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

RECEIVED CLAIMS UNIT

APR Z 3 2001

OFFICE OF THE

GENERAL COLINSEI

April 6, 2001 CERTIFIED REQUESTED

Ford Motor Co Parklane Towers West Suite 300 Three Parklane Blvd Dearbozn, MI 48126-2568 ATTN:

RE:

INSURED

CLAIM MIMBER YOUR CASE NUMBER

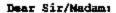
YOUR INSURED DATE OF LOSS

DAMAGES

Ford Motor Co

7/1/00

\$28825.71



We are the recovery agents for American Home who has made payment to their policyholder for damages arising out of the above cited occurrence. Cur investigation of this loss has determined that your insured is responsible for these damages.

Since our client is the equitable subroges of its insured, on their behalf we request payment of above captioned damages.

Please note our claim number on your remittance and send your check, made payable to American Home in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope to:

> American Rome c/o American International Recovery, Inc. CLAIM

P. O. Box 105795 Atlanta, GA 30348-9864

Very truly yours,

PLUILLE Cynthia Dominica

Recovery Representative

(800) 748-2069 ext. 3058

CB/kd

Please Type

7-2-01
·
Magna, UT.
RE: Date of Loss - 7/1/on
Amt of Loss - \$28825,71
Adverse - Ford Motor Co.
Vehicle - 1998 Ford Expedition
Dear Mr. Steadmon,
We have received a request from Ford Motor
We have received a request from Ford Motor Company for additional details to evaluate
this 1055.
We need Hos coperate the papermork
involving any aftermarket installations
I understand a lift kit was installed.
Please forward any details you have
regarding this installation to me as soon
as possible I have searched the adjuste
file and cannot locate this information
I will also need a copy of the sales
contract, reflecting your initial purchase of
contract reflecting your initial purchase of this vehicle and any other information you
received from the dealer at the time of th
purchase.
E985-665-LC1-1843

It you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly your, Cynthia Dominica Recovery Specialist

EA25-885-LC1-1844

August 21, 2000



Ms. Kelly McGee, SIU Coordinator AIG Claim Services 161 Wilmington – West Chester Pike Chedds Ford, PA 19317

Re;:

Cor Fire Investigation:

insured:

....,

Investigator: Our File No.: Your Case No:

00-1927 00101398

FINAL REPORT

Dear Ms. McGee:

SYNOPSIS

A1998 Ford Expedition with unknown Utah license plates caught on fire around 5:22 a.m. on 7/1/00 in the 1400 block of Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA.

The Del Mar Fire Department responded to the car fire call at 5:23 a.m. and arrived 4 minutes later at 5:27 a.m.

The listed probable cause of the fire was electrical and located in the vehicle's engine Compartment.

The vehicle was towed from the fire scene by Rose Towing.

ASSIGNMENT

- On 8/1/00, it was requested to interview the police officer that responded to the scene of the car fire.
- Interview the fire crew that responded to the scene of the fire.
- Request copies of the police and fire reports.

INVESTIGATION

On 6/8/00, I met Captain Jim Wood at the Del Mar Fire Department 2200 Jimmie Durante Bivd., Del Mar, CA. (Phone number 658-755-1521.) Capt Wood introduced me to his crew that had responded to the car fire, on 7/1/00, in the area of 1400 Camino Del Mar, CA. Present with Capt Wood was Jerry Adams the engineer, and

Car Fire Investigation
AK3 Case Number 00101396
Insured:
Page 2



Mike Mejia firefighter. Dan Parras, an on call firefighter who had responded to the fire, was not available for the Interview.

Captain Wood related that unit 2511 had responded to the fire call at 5:23 a.m. on 7/1/00. While enroute to the fire, Captain Wood noticed a large plume of dark smoke sponded over a bill. The thought that was unusual for a car fire. They arrived in the tenguised in flames. The vehicle was facing Northbound and parked near the East curb in front of a business at the control of the sew initiated the use of form and water to control the fire, which was extinguished by 5:59 a.m. Captain Wood remarked that in 28 years of fire fighting, he had never seen a car fire that was so hot. The heat was so interes that it method the hood of the Ford Expedition. Captain Wood went to say that he later contacted a Ford dealership to confirm what the vehicle's hood was made of. He was told that the hood was made of metal.

Captain Wood also tasked with **interest actual** the driver of the Expedition. The driver had stated that he had heard popping noises in the engine compartment. They had pulled over and checked the engine but didn't see anything. They continued on until the same noises started again. They pulled over and then noticed a fire in the engine compartment.

Engineer Jerry Adam related that he has been a fire fighter for 16 years. He said that he has never seen a car fire that was so hot. The heat was so intense that it caused heat damage to the shell of a newspaper vending machine that was approximately 4 feet away from the vehicle. He described the driver of the Expedition as a male in his 50's, around 8 feet tall, weighing around 200 pounds and wearing glasses. A younger male was with him. Mr. Adams also noticed that a Sheriffs unit arrived at the car fire after they did. The deputy performed traffic control duties at the scene. He described the deputy as a Caucasian male in his 30's or 40's, very thin, about 6 foot tall and wearing very thick glasses. Mr. Adams wearit sure, but thought that the deputy gave a ride to the driver and his son.

Firefighter Mike Mejis has been a firefighter for around 6 years. He related that he removed some luggage from the rear of the Expedition after the fire had been extinguished. The luggage was heat and smoke damaged.

i attempted three times to contact firefighter Dan Parras by leaving my telephone number at the Fire Department switchboard. Mr. Parras never phoned me back.

On 8/10/00, I contacted the San Diego County Sheriffs station that is located at 175 N El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA. (Phone number 858-565-5200.) An attempt was made to locate a police report on the fire incident. The personnel on duty could not find any report. I phoned the same station again on 8/11/00 and received the same response. On 8/17/00, I contacted Sergeant Campbell, a traffic supervisor. Sgt. Campbell explained that a report was probably not taken because it wasn't a crime or injury case.

Car Fire Investigation AIG Case Nuber 00101396 Insured: Page 3

Under these circumstances, the deputy wouldn't be required to file a report. I requested that a check be made of the dispatch tapes for 7/1/00 and determine who the deputy was that had stopped at the fire scene. On 8/18/00, I received a phone call from Sgt. Campbell. She related that there weren't any dispatches found for the car fire on 7/1/00. Also, Sgt. Campbell was unable to locate any deputies based on the description that I had given her.

Per the Oel Mar Fire Department, the disabled Ford Expedition was towed away from the fire scene by Rose Towing 2201 San Dieguito Or. in Oel Mar, CA. The phone number is 858-755-6426.

This report concludes the requested investigation of this matter. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require any further assistance with this or Any other matter.

We appreciate your continued confidence, in our services.

f.

Sincerely.

Joseph L. Osiermann

Rainbow (ovestigative Services

PI 19091°

(858) 672-1684

JLO: rc Endiosure 1

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00-05 REPORT BOAR DEL MAR FIRE DEPARTMENT 1-03 INCIDENT REPORT - VENETCLE FIRE DATE: 7/1/00 TIME: 0522 TYPE: VHHICLE FIRE DIET: DAR LOCATION REP. PARTY: OMERICA: UNITE DEPTCED: 3523 ARRYD: 0527 PERMS TERMS: 04 MINUTES BARRIERS. AVAIL ON SCHME 0523 0527 2511 0559 0605 BESTORDING PARTY INPORTATION PERSONNEL WOOD, RDAMS, MESTER, PANKES YMEGA FIRE INCIDENT SUMBER STATE: UTAH YR: ME: NOL: 98 POND EXPEDITION VEH LICH ADDRESS DRIVER: OCCUPATION. PROB CAUSE: SLECTRICAL PY OF ORIGINS BUSING COMPARINENT APPROE \$ LOGS: 20,000 CONTENT: APPA DIMENSE: ENGINE AND INTERIOR EXPERIM ASSET: FORM PERDEN TREASURE DRIVER STATED HEARING POPPING HOLSE RIGHT SIDE ENGINE CONTARTMENT.

SAME SOUND STARTED, FULLED OVER 2ND TIME AT WHICH TIME FIRE HAD STARTED IN AREA WHERE HOISE HAD COME FROM. FIRE WAS EXTINGUISHED AND CVEREAUL PERFORMED. VEHICLE TONED BY ROSE TOWING. The foregoing is tone and accorate to the best of my knowledge.

PULLED OVER, CHECKED ENGINE, NOTHING POUND. STARTED DRIVING AGAIN.

7-2-2000

Date

RECORDED INTERVIEW

Today's Sunday the 13th of August, 2000. This is an interview between the sunday the 13th of August, 2000. This is an interview between the sunday of th

- Q: are you aware that I'm recording that
- A: Yes.
- Q: Interview? Thank you. When and for what reason did you borrow the vehicle of
- A: We borrowed the vehicle, I believe the day before our vacation. I can't remember when we went on vacation. It was in July. The end of June. So we went down to California for about a week. We borrowed the vehicle from him, the day before we left on vacation.
- Q: Okay. And how long did you have the vehicle and where were you traveling?
- A: We traveled from our home here to San Diego, California.

 Del Mar, which is a part of San Diego, is where we went.

 We were there for about 7 days I think and then the accident, or the vehicle started on fire, I think it was 2 days before we left California. So it was towards the end of our vacation.
- Q: Was any money exchanged for the use of the vehicle?
- A: No.
- Q: Okay, what vehicles do you own and how many drivers reside in your household?
- A: I have 3 vehicles. A 1994 Jeep Cherokee. A 1988 Ford XLT full size van. And a 19, let's see, 1998 Subaru Legacy Outback. And there are, let's see, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 drivers who reside in our home. The reason why we borrowed their vehicle, do you want me to tell you that?
- Q: Yes, go ahead.
- A: Is because our van was broken, it wasn't running well. We have a huge family. We didn't have enough room in our vehicles to go to California. And the Steadmans had, their car had been in for electrical problems several times. And they wanted to see how it would go on a long trip, if it would go well and they knew we needed the bigger car, so they offered to let us take it.

Q: Okay. Can you tell me the circumstances surrounding the fire? If you can start like 24 hours prior to the fire.

A: Okay. Let's see, I can't remember exactly what we were doing 24 hours before the fire, but we had gone to bed the night before the fire. We were sleeping. Me and my son were going shell hunting on the beach, Del Mar, at 5 o'clock in the morning. So, we got up in the morning, got dressed, got in the vehicle and drove about 2 miles from my sister's home, down to Del Mar Village, which is where the beach is. And that's where the accident happened, so there was no cars on the road, nobody was there. And we were just shell hunting, going to go shell hunting just because It was low tide. So, as we drove downhill from her house and got onto the highway, I think it's Highway, oh I can't remember what the highway is, it's the coastal highway there. We, and as we got into the village of Del Mar, the car started making a clicking sound, kind of like a sound you would have if you had a frayed fan belt hitting plastic. So I pulled over and left the vehicle running. Tried to see if there was anything wrong. Checked the belts, see if, it's hard to see into those engines, but everything looked fine. I turned the engine off. checked the coolant. I checked the cil. I checked all the fluids, just to make sure there was nothing wrong that would ruin the vehicle, you know, it was making the funny sound. So then, after I checked everything, I decided, well I'll just go a little bit further, park, go hunt shells and then decide what to do after that. So I drove probably another block or half a block and it was still making that clicking noise. And then I thought, no I better quite driving it and I'd need to call the dealer and make an appointment. But it was 5 o'clock in the morning, so, I pulled over. I tried to park in a place where I thought a tow truck could come and get the car because I figured we'd be towing it to have a dealer come and look at it. And as soon as I stopped the car, a fire broke out under the hood. And it looked like it broke out under the, on the right, let's see, the passenger side, up above, you know, higher, up on the engine, that's what it looked like to me. There was just a sound of kind of, whew, I don't know what you'd call it, not an explosion but you could hear the fire going. Smoke started coming out of the sides

on the hood. And so, we got out of the car and there wasla bagel shop nearby and they weren't open yet, they were preparing for the day. So I went and banged on the door. And had them call 911, the fire department. And I got a fire extinguisher from them. I came back out, there was fire coming out of the hood and smoke and I got in the car, even though it seemed kind of dangerous, because I thought maybe the car would explode, if it, the flames got to the gas tank or something. I popped the hood and then I was going to, so the hood popped up just a little tiny bit but didn't go up. And then my son said, hey don't open the hood because they taught us in driver's ed if you open the hood, the flames will, the air will, the gust of air will make the fire worse, so I tried to, it was a pretty big fire extinguisher. I put the fire extinguisher up to the fire, the wheel wells, through the front in the crack, down from the windshield, just everywhere I could to try to put the fire out, emptied the fire extinguisher. It would not go out. Fire just kept getting bigger. Flames were maybe, I don't know, 8 feet off the hood. By that time, it was getting out of control. So I ran back to the bagel shop, said did you guys call 911 yet? And they said, yes we did. So, it seemed like it took about 10 or 12 minutes for the fire department to get there, but it could've been quicker. It seemed like a long time. And after we, there was nothing we could do about the fire. We just kept our distance because I thought the whole vehicle was going to blow up. So the fire department came and put out the fire. Called a tow truck. It, well, yes, they called a tow truck and took it to a wrecking yard. That was all between probably 5 o'clock and 6:30. Somewhere in there, in the morning.

- Q: So, did you lose any items in the fire?
- A: Yes, some small things, like there were some cassette tapes that were ruined because of the water damage from the fire department. A blanket, just, nothing really of any significant value.
- Q: And did you make a homeowners claim for the lost items?
- A: No. I didn't. I thought that would increase my premium, or what I lost was not worth (inaudible)

- Q: So where did you go from the scene of the fire?
- A: The sheriff, there was a sheriff there, a law enforcement officer there and the fire engine crew. And after the fire, the sheriff's department, the sheriff took me and my son back to my sister's home.
- Q: So did you rent
- A: On that morning.
- Q: On that morning.
- A: And then the next day we rented a car, I think it was a National Car Rental chain in Sewana Beach and then we drove it home the next day after we rented it.
- Q: Okay. Can I have your vehicle insurance company information and the phone number of your agent?
- A: Why?
- Q: I don't know, it's right here, I'm just asking.
- A: Well who's asking you to do this?
- Q: The insurance for Terry.
- A: For the Steadmans.
- Q: Yes.
- A: Yes, my insurance is Farmer's Insurance.
- Q: Okay.
- A: And my agent is Doug Arden, in Orton.
- Q: O-R-T-O-N?
- A: Yes. What are they going to do, try and make my insurance pay for this?
- Q: No.
- A: That's good. So the insurance company hired you
- Q: Yes.
- A: Is that right?
- Q: Yes. Okay, well that concludes the interview. Thank you.
- A: That's it?
- Q: Yes.
- A: Wow.
- BS/mw

RECORDED INTERVIEW



This is an interview conducted by Bridget Stevenson, Private Investigator, between Bridget Stevenson and Today is Friday, August 18, 2000. It's about 2 PM.

- Q: are you aware that I'm recording this interview?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Okay. Here are the questions that I have for you. When and where did you purchase the vehicle from?
- A: Auto Collection, West Valley. December 2nd, 1998.
- Q: Okay. All the repairs and maintenance done on the vehicle since you owned it, where was the work done?
- A: At Auto Collection, West Valley.
- Q: Okay. Do you remember when?
- A: I can't remember exact dates, but I have sent my insurance company, AIG, all the paperwork on it.
- Q: Okay. So do you have any copies of the receipts for all these repairs ordered?
- A: I sent them and I've got some, yes.
- Q: But did you send them everything you had
- A: Yes I did.
- Q: Did you hear any of the squeaking noises that Mr. Berrett mentioned, before when you were driving the vehicle?
- A: No. (Inaudible).
- Q: Okay. Is there anything that you can remember that may have, that you may have heard or experienced while you were using that vehicle?
- A: No, we just had trouble with the keyless entry. I've had it back about 4 times for that.
- Q: Okay. What was the main use of your vehicle?
- A: Everything. We've got some property up in Strawberry Pinnacles. We've used it for going back and forth there. Just, everything.

- Q: Okay. What were the circumstances behind you lending thevehicle to your friend?
- A: They were thinking about buying an Expedition. This is where this all started.
- Q: And they're not friends, they're
- A: They're family
- Q: Oh I'm sorry
- A: It's not friends.
- Q: Okay.
- A: And, so we were talking to them about it and asked them, they've got a large family, if they wanted to use it (inaudible). And they said, yes they would try it out and see. So we did. And we had their Outback. We did have their Outback.
- Q: Okay.
- A: I don't know who makes Outback, but it is an Outback.
- Q: So, do you remember when and where did you let him borrow the vehicle? When was it exactly?
- A: Okay, it was the 27th of June. They'd come out, at our home.
- Q: And how long was he supposed to keep the vehicle?
- A: While they were on vacation. 2 weeks.
- Q: And they were going where?
- A: To California.
- O: California?
- A: To stay with his sister. With sister.
- Q: Was any money exchanged for the use of the vehicle?
- A: No.
- Q: So you just said that you used his Outback while he was using your vehicle, right?
- A: Yes.
- Q: And how many vehicles do you own?
- A: I have, counting the Expedition?

- Q: Yes.
- A; 4.
- Q: 4. And how many people are living here with you?
- A: Just my wife and I.
- Q: Well, that's all for today. And these complete the interview. Thank you.

BS/mw

TO:

AIG

RE:

TERRY STEADMAN
1998 FORD EXPEDITION

REPORT

VEHICLE EXAMINED:

The vehicle was a 1998 Ford Expedition with VIN # 1FMPU18LCWLCE and stock # 3746210. These two numbers were used to identify the vehicle to be examined.

LOCATION:

The vehicle was located at Copart in San Diego CA. This was the same location at which the vehicle was to be examined.

PRELIMINARY;

As per your request, on \$/3/00, I traveled to the above mentioned location and examined the above captioned vehicle. The vehicle was identified by its VIN, year, make and model.

The vehicle was being operated at the time of the fire. The operator heard a clicking noise then pulled over and the vehicle was discovered to have been on fire. There was a report of electrical work done by an auto collision center in West Valley CA.

EXTERIOR EXAMINATION:

Examining the exterior, I found the fire damage to have been concentrated in the engine compartment area of the vehicle. The hood, windshield, grill and front fenders were the most directly affected components on the exterior of the vehicle.

The windshield was the only window glass that was directly affected by the fire. The other windows on the vehicle were smoke and soot stained to the inside surfaces but still in place.

The tires on the vehicle were next examined. The two front tires were affected by exposure to the fire. The passenger side front tire was affected the most. The rest of the tries were still inflated at the time of this examination.

INTERIOR EXAMINATION:

Examining the interior, I found the fire to have been mainly in the center upper section of the dashboard. All of the indicators pointed to the fire spreading from the engine compartment into the passenger compartment by way of the windshield.

The majority of the interior of the vehicle was affected by varying degrees of heat and smoke damage. The closer to the upper dashboard area I examined the more intense the smoke and heat was.

The wiring in the dashboard area was examined. There were found no signs of shorting, heading or electrical over heating in the wiring or the components located under the dashboard. The top of the dashboard was the fire damaged area and this damage did not extend much into the interior of the dashboard of the vehicle. While the dashboard was being examined the odometer was checked. The mileage was found to have been 7053 and the trip meter read 311.7 miles.

The floor area of the vehicle was examined. There were found no indications of the fire burning through the carpeting. There was drop fire damage in the front seat area only. This drop fire damage appeared to have been from the fire entering the passenger compartment by way of the windshield.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT EXAMINATION:

The general burn patterns were examined and found to have pointed to the front passenger side of the engine as the area with the most intense fire related damage. The damage was from the lower passenger side front upwards and towards the rear.

The electrical wiring and components in the engine compartment were examined. There was fire damage found to the wiring and components. There were no signs of shorting, beading or electrical over heating that would be consistent with an electrically caused fire.

The fuel lines and system in this compartment were examined. The lines, the rail and the injectors were all fire damaged. There were, however, no indicators of these components being involved in the cause of this fire.

The lower passenger side of the engine compartment was next examined. There was found an oily residue that was along the bottom section of the compartment. There was also found a missing section of pressure hose. This hose would have connected the transmission cooling lines from the radiator to the transmission.

Leading from the lower passenger side front was a burn pattern that was more intense in the lower passenger front and less intense the further away from the lower front I examined. There was also a pattern on the radiator surface facing the interior of the engine compartment. That pattern pointed to the lower passenger side front.

The engine oil and transmission fluid levels were checked. The engine oil level was at or near the proper level and the transmission fluid level was recording on the dipstick. There appeared to be no components missing from the engine compartment that could not be accounted for in terms of fire damage.

CHASSIS EXAMINATION:

The under side of the vehicle was examined and found to have been intact. There was some firerelated damage in the front fender areas but this was due to the fire from burning from within the engine compartment. There was also an oily residue under the front section of the chassis.

NOTE:

The recalls for this vehicle were checked. None of the recalls were related to this fire. There was a recall for the transmission indicate lever. This recall concerns the selector cable coming loose and this would have made it impossible to shift the vehicle from park.

I would strongly suggest that a complete description of the repairs that were done should be obtained. There may be other work done that was not described. One of the major questions that this could address is whether there was any damage to the area of origin.

CONCLUSION:

ORIGIN:

Based on the burn patterns observed during the examination, this fire was found to have started in the engine compartment of the vehicle. The area of origin was found to have been in the lower passenger side front of the engine. This was the same area as a number of transmission lines. This was the area of the vehicle that was bordered by the engine, the radiator and the lower front frame members. Just to the rear of this area was found the exhaust manifold on the passenger side of the engine.

CAUSE:

After all of the available information was reviewed the fire was determined to have been accidental in nature. The burn patterns and other indicators were found to have pointed to the fire being fixeled by a combustible fluid. There was also a section of a flexible transmission line missing due to fire. There appeared to have been a pattern that would be consistent with a spray like pattern. All of the patterns pointed to the fire being caused by a leak in the transmission cooling line. This teaking fransmission fluid was then most likely ignited by a list exhaust surface like the manifold or even the converter.

Should further information become available after the completion of this examination that may be pertinent to this file, please forward it to our office for review and possible further action. Should you have any further questions in reference to this file, please do not hesitate to contact our office at your earliest convenience.

Richard J. Pacheco, BCFE, CFEI, MFE, FL

Master Forensic Examiner

Fellow, American College of Forensic Examiners

Diplomate, Board Certified Forensic Examines

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Society of Automotive Forensic Examiners

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ASE Certified Technician
Certified RI Auto Inspector
Oil Filter Technician

Dennis Mignogno, IL Forensic Analyst

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Member, Society of Automotive Forensic Examiners

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Antonio Monteiro, FL, IL

Forensic Analyst

Manuel Ferreira Licensed Electrician Forensic Analyst

Dive Team Leader

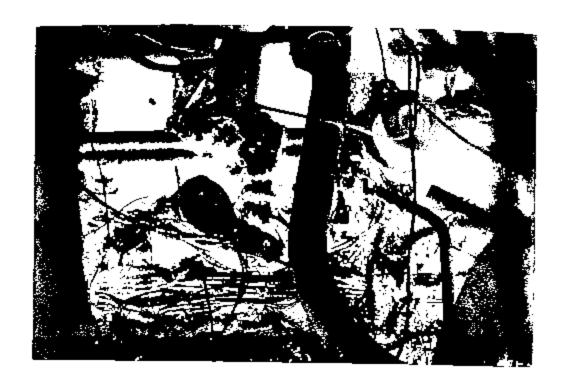
Douglas Delancy
Forensic Analyst
ASE Certified Master
Mechanic

Lealie Caulfield, BS MT (ASCP) Clinical Laboratory

Scientist

Robert Desmarais
Forensic Analyst
Heavy Equipment Specialist
Marine Engine Mechanic







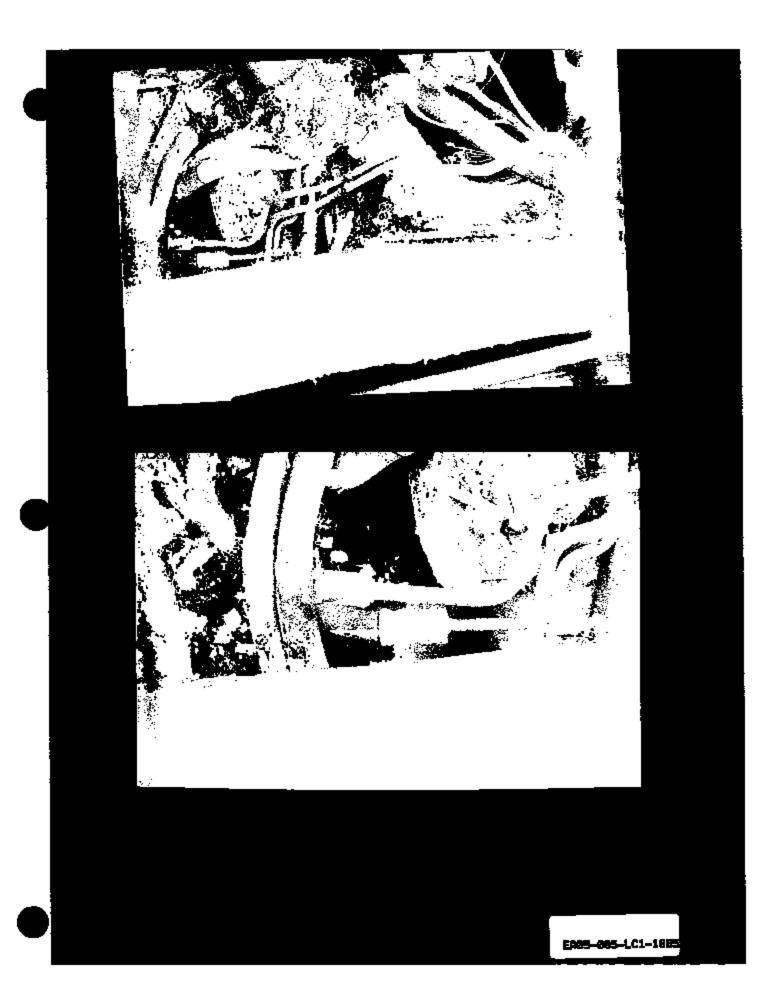






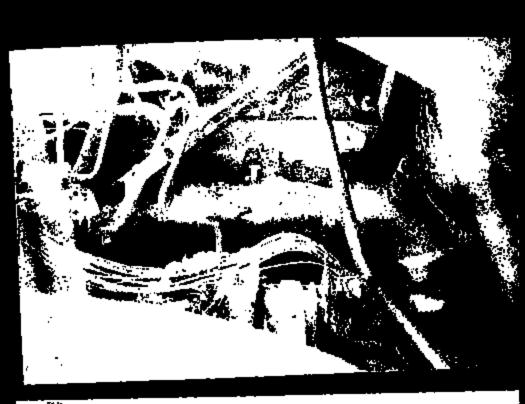






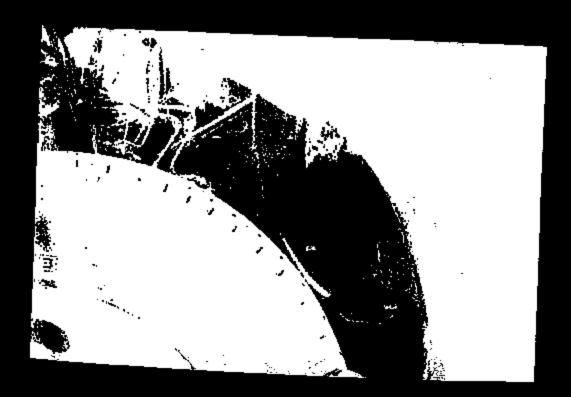


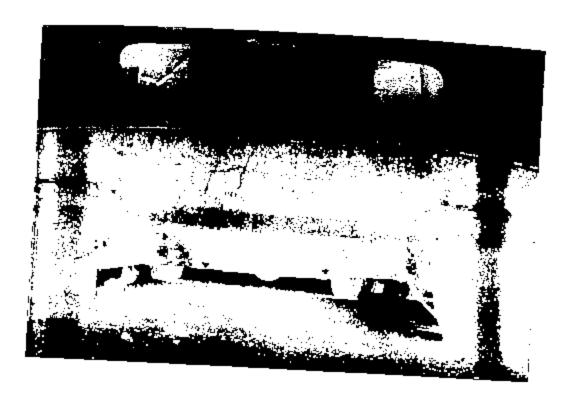




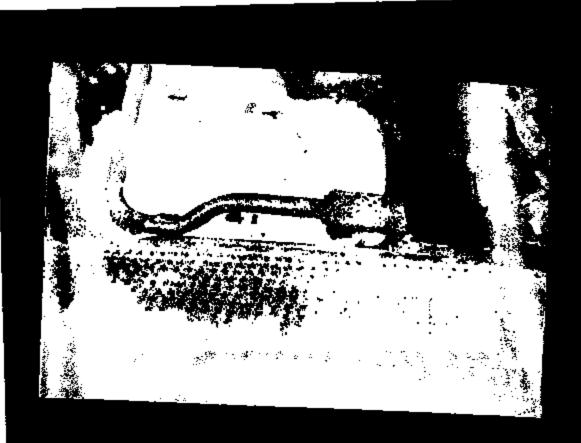




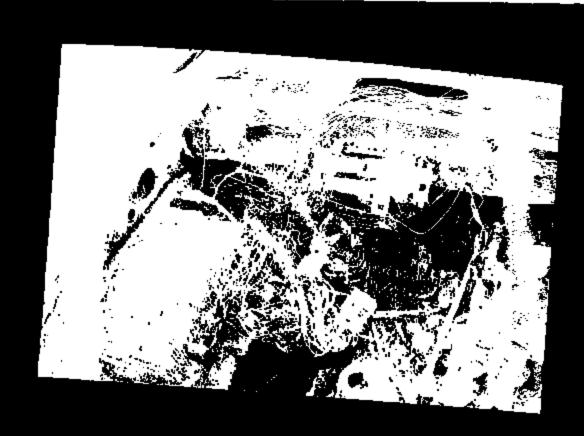


































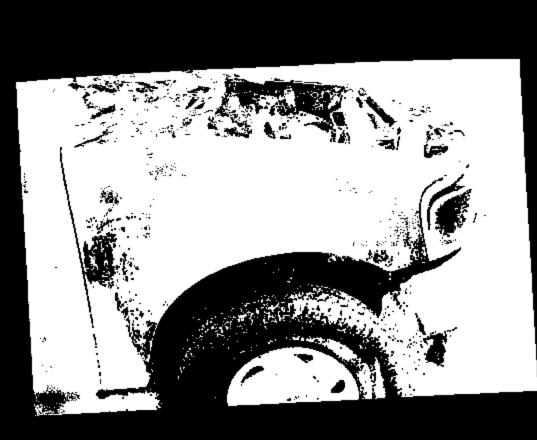


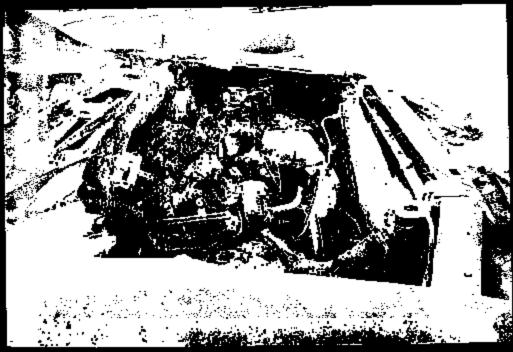




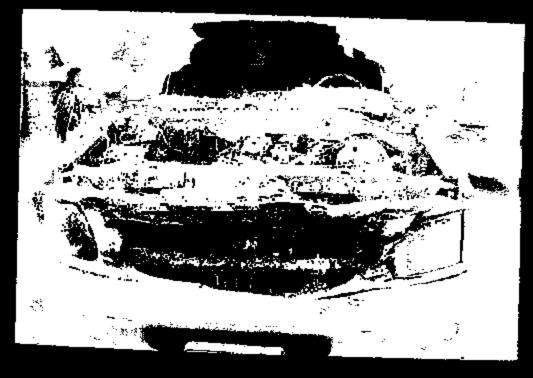
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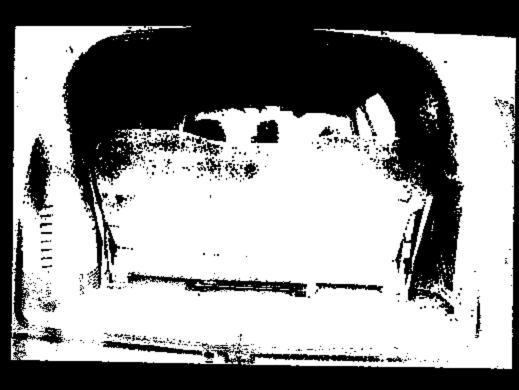


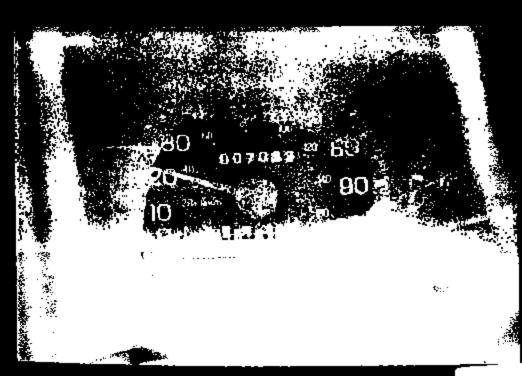














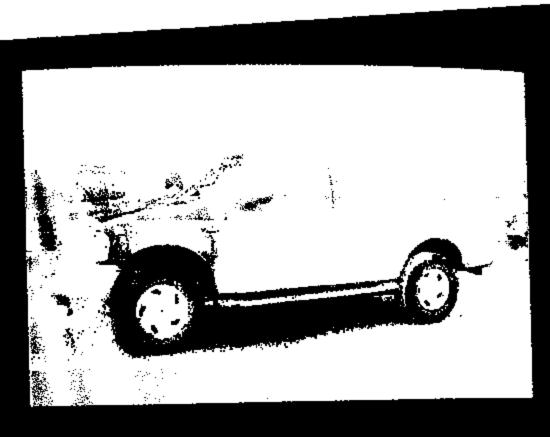


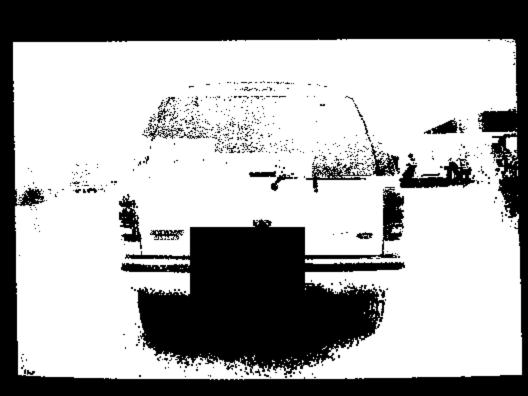




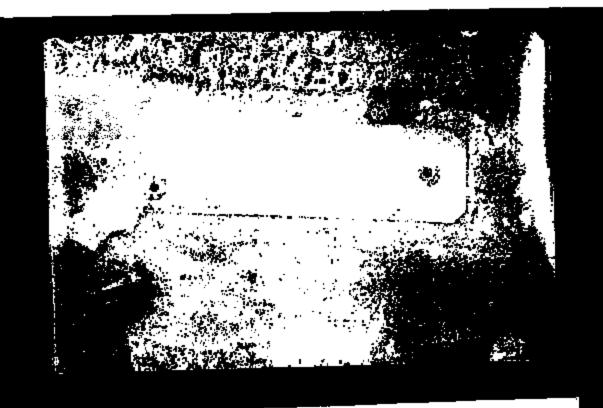


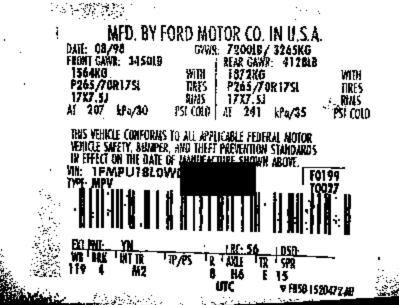














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3378 WEST MARKET STREET * AKRON OH 44333 *

November 25, 1997

Ford Motor Company
Parkiane Towers West
Suite 400
Three Parkiane Boulevard
Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2588

OUR INSURED :

OUR CLAIM NUMB<u>er : I</u>

YOUR INSURED :

YOUR INSURED'S ADDRESS:

PARK LANE BLVD

DEARBORN MI

YOUR CLAIM NUMBER: unknown DATE OF ACCIDENT: 02-12-1997 COMPANY LOSS: \$14,061.81 LESS (SALVAGE): \$730

DEDUCTIBLE: \$0

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$13,331.81

POPO MOTOR COMPANY
RECEIVED
CLAIMS UNIT
DEC 0 2 1997

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Pursuant to your request, enclosed please find the following:

1.	. A complete description of the incident, including events which occurred prior	to er	ĸ
CI I	rhsequent to the loss		•

Northampton when the 1996 Ford F-150 he was operating sputtered. At the top of the hill, the driver smelled when seemed like wires burning and he pulled over to open the hood the check for the source of the smell. When the driver opened the hood there was fire on the far wall. It is to began throwing snow on the fire to put it out when something near the carburetor "blew" causing some type of flammable fluid to spew out. The entire engine and cab of the truck burned. Several passersby called the fire department. It took them 15-20 minutes to arrive on the scene. Peninsula Poisce Department and Valley Fire Department took reports.

A copy of the police and/or fire report.

Ohio law requires the following: Any person who, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement is guilty of insurance fraud.

111-000002-07

5965-065-LC1-1804



See attached.

- The vehicle year, model, and serial number.
 1996 Ford F150. VIN: 1FTEF15N2TN
- The mileage on the vehicle at the time of the accident.
 15,000 non actual
- Original photographs of the vehicle's collision/fire damage, from several different angles, or color laser copies.
 See attached.
- What is the alleged detect? Defect unknown.
- Documentation to substantiate your defect allegation, including a copy of your expert's report end the expert's original photographs.
 See attached documents supporting loss. Defect is unknown.
- Has the alleged defective part been repaired or replaced?No, this was a total burn.
- The present location of the alleged defective part and vehicle.
 Joe Horisks's Salvage Pool Systems, 286 E. Twinsburg Rd., Northfield OH 44067
- The repair estimate, repair order, or your total loss worksheet for the vehicle's damage, and copies of draft payments.
 - See attached.
- A complete service history for the subject vehicle, including any tune ups or oil-changes.

None avalleable.

12. List any after market additions or modifications that were made to the vehicle. Not applicable or not known to be applicable.

We consider the total amount due listed above to be payment in full, but will promptly notify you if we incur any additional costs. No attorney is representing our subrogation interests at this time.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Ohio law requires the following: Any person with, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement is guilty of insurance fraud.

111-0000@-07



NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY BEVERLY PROCTOR-DONALD Claims Department 330-873-2113

Ohio law requires the following: Any person wito, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against on insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement is guilty of insurance fraud.

141-90000-07

46/135

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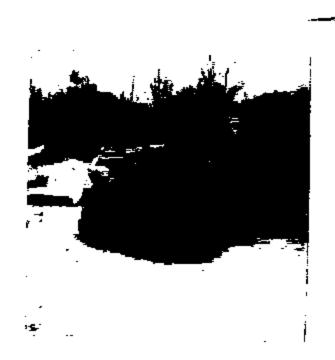
VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT INCIDENT REPORT INFORMATION SHEET

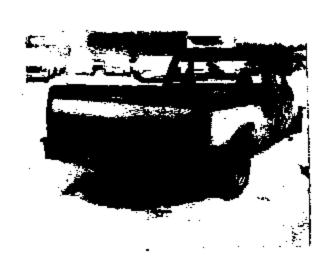
NIMES COMPLETED REPORT NUMBER 136 DATE 65-12-47 DAY Wed.
ALARM TIME 21:55 ARRIVAL 22:04 IN SERVICE 22:25
SITUATION FOUND (BUILDING FIRE, ETC.) Car Fire Code 11
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3378 WEST MARKET STREET * AKRON OH 44333 *

March 13, 1997

FORD MOTOR COMPANY OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL, PARK LANE TOWER SW SUITE 300, 3 PARK LANE BLVD DEARBORN, MI 48126

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OUR INSURED:

OUR CLAIM NUMBER :

YOUR INSURED: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

YOUR INSURED'S ADDRESSE

DEARBORN MI

YOUR CLAIM NUMBER:

DATE OF ACCIDENT: 02-12-1997

COMPANY LOSS: \$13,851.81

LESS (SALVAGE): \$0 - MAKNOWN CHETCHTY

DEDUCTIBLE: \$0

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$13,851.81



Here are the supporting papers and a request for payment of our subrogation claim. We consider the total amount due listed above to be payment in full, but will promptly notify you if we incur any additional costs. No attorney is representing our subrogation interests at this time.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

NATIONWIDE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY BEVERLY PROCTOR-DONALD Claime Department 330-873-2113

Ohlo law requires the following: Any person who, with intent to defract or knowing that he/she is feolitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement is guitty of insurance fraud.

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State Farm Insurance Companies



Florida Regional Office Fire Centralized Subrogation P.O. Box 960fi Winter Haven, Ft. 23883-9605

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED November 8, 1999

Ford Motor Company Attn: Howard Keyes, Claims Department Manager Parkland Tower West, Ste 400 3 Parklane Boulevard Dearborn, MI 48126

Ft Landerdale, FL .

Claim Number: Our Insured:

Loss Address:

Date of Loss:

VIN Number

Make and Model of Vehicle:

April 30, 1999 1996 Ford F-150 Blok Un Truck

LFTEF15YX7

Dear Mr. Keyes:

This letter is in reference to fire damage to our insured's home as a result of a vehicle fire. We settled a claim with our insured in the amount of \$56,082.37, which includes our insured's \$500 deductible.

Our investigation revealed the fire originated in the engine compartment of the Ford Pick-Up truck.

Enclosed is the documentation of State Farm's claim. Please consider this letter as a demand to your company for reimbursement of \$56,082,37.

If you need any further information or wish to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely.

Karen Dennis

Claim Specialist

STATE FARM FIRE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

(888) 756-4449, Rxt. 3290

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Enclosures





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P.G.S. FORM 200-2-35-X P.G.S. INDUSTRIES, P.O. BOX 1349, ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712/1-800-484-7419 | S.C. 7476 FAX 1 732-819-7315



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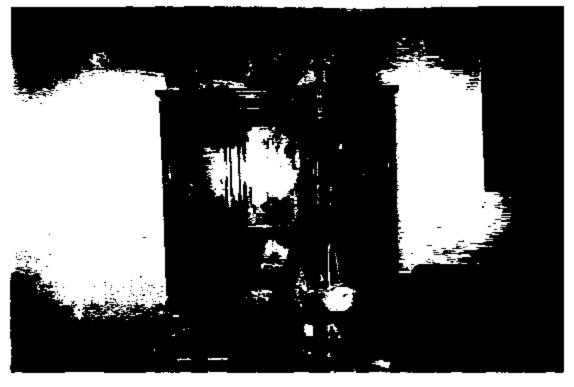
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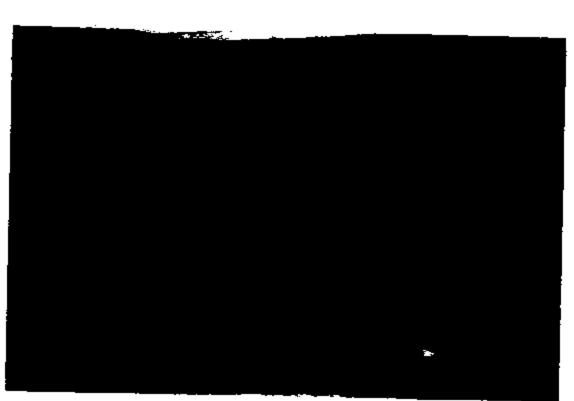


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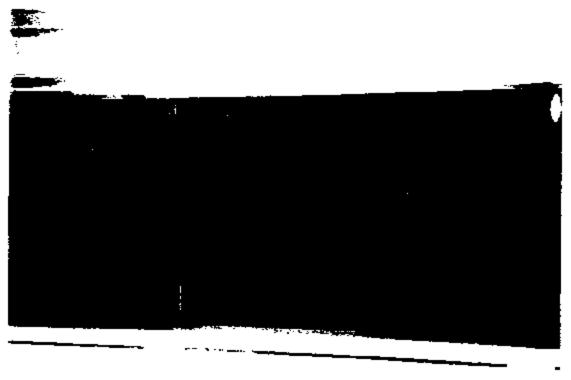


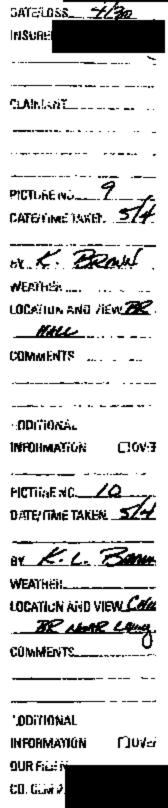
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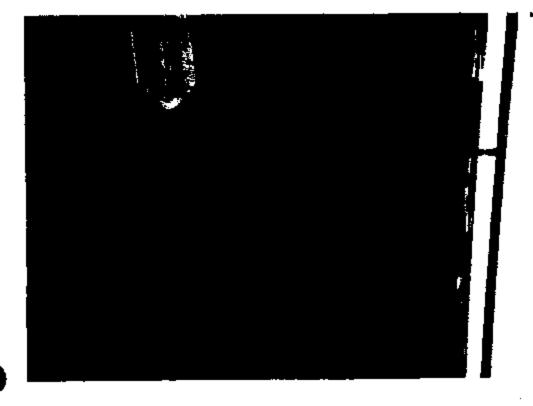
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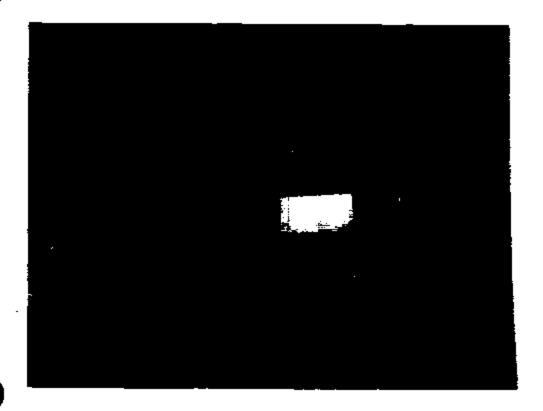
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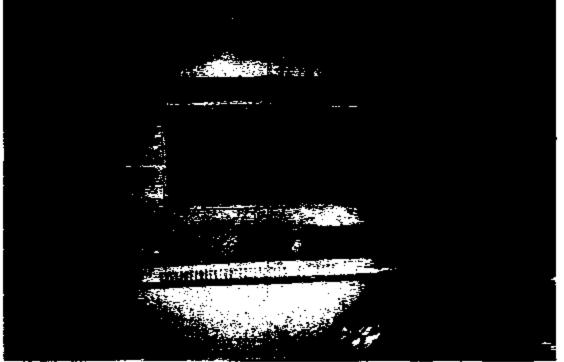


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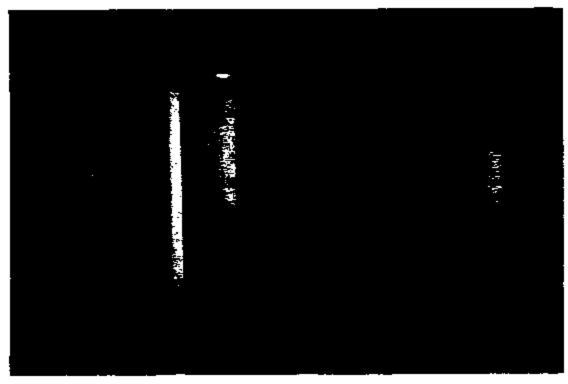


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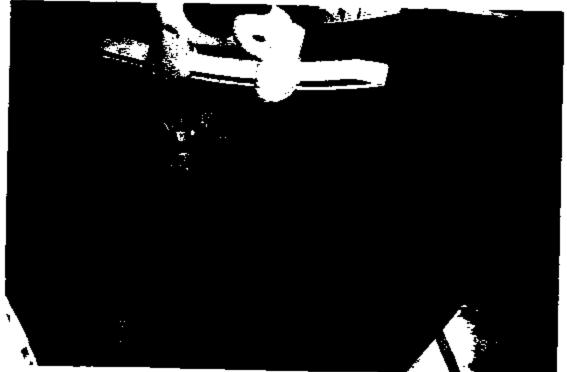


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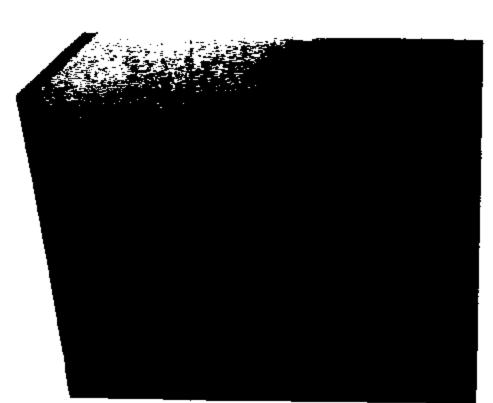


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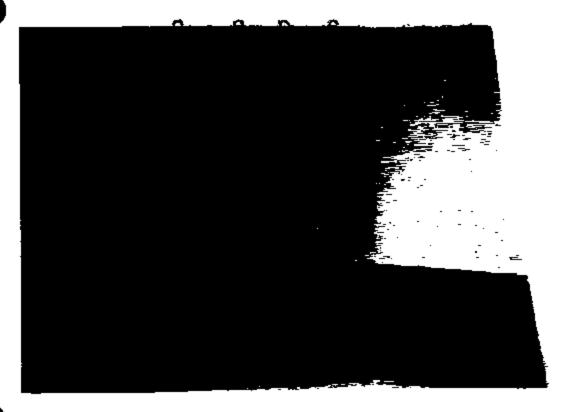
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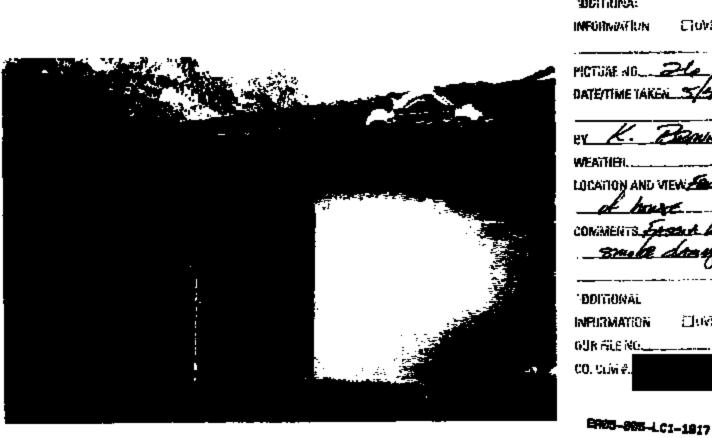
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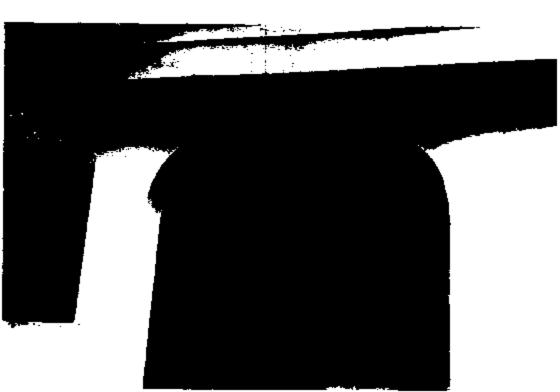
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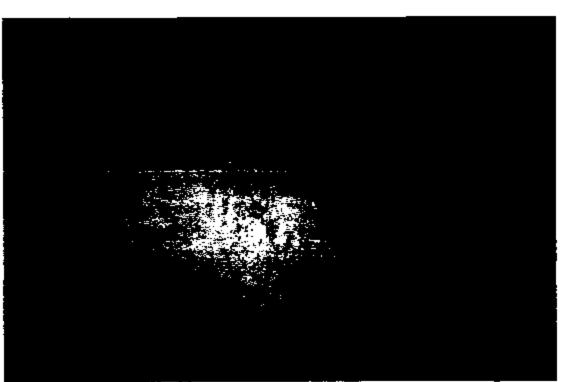
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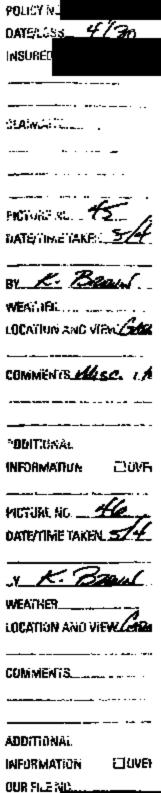
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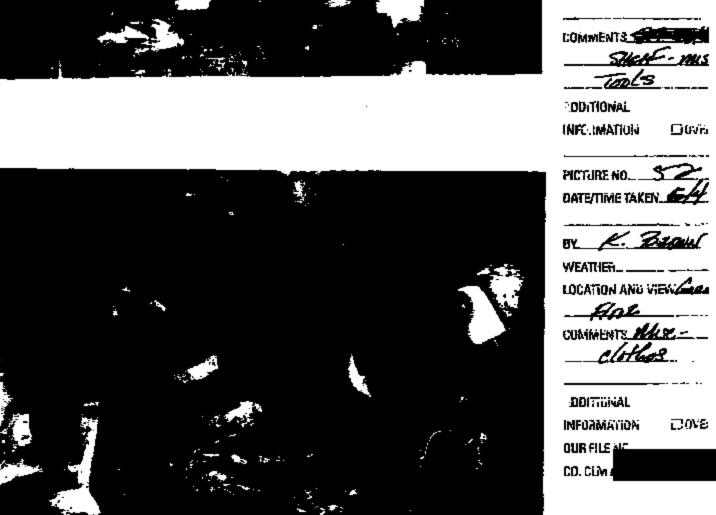


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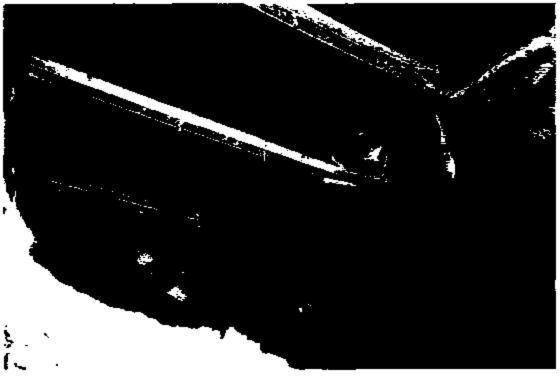
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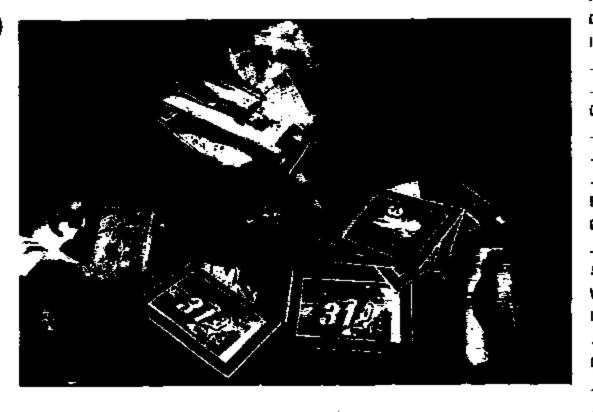


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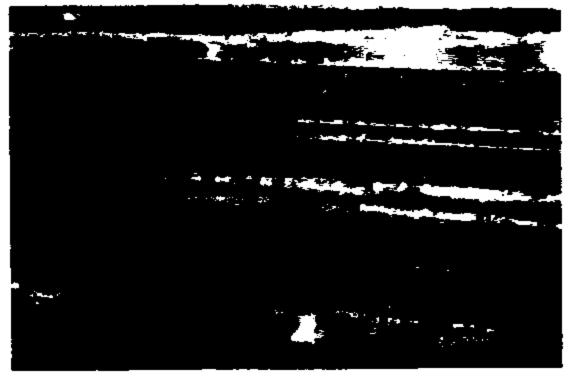




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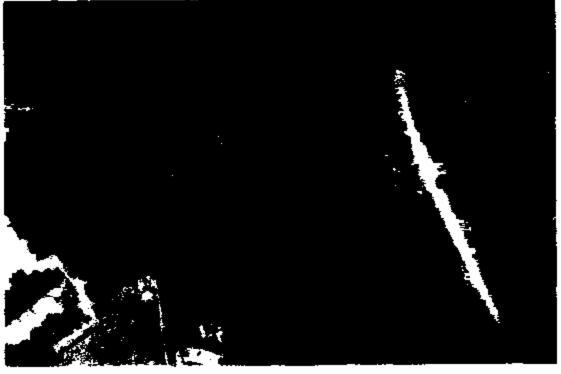
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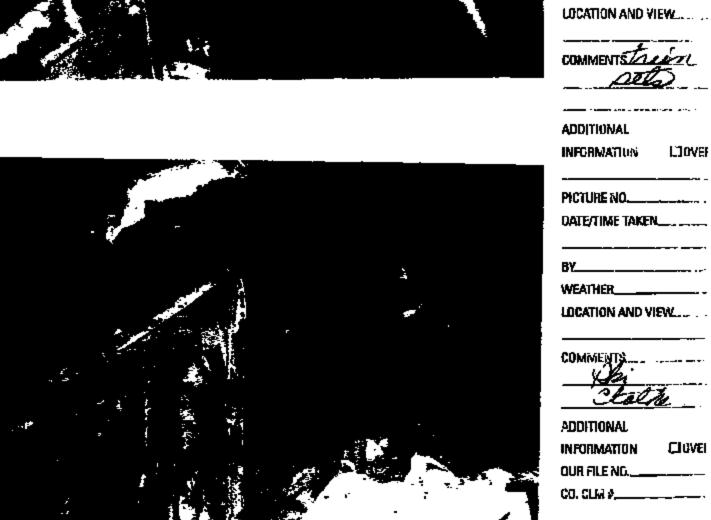


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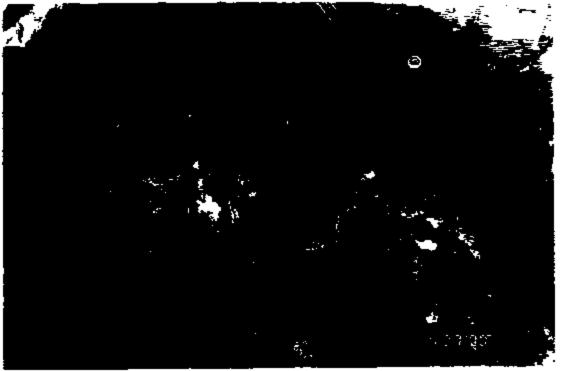


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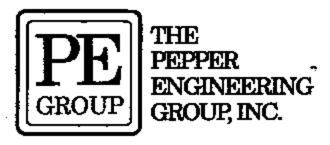
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P.G.S. FORM 200-2-36-X P.G.S. INDUSTRIES, P.O. BOX 1348, ASBURY PARK, NJ 07712/1-800-484-7419 - S.C. 7474 FAX 1-732-919-7319



received **Juni 1 4 1999** So Bruward - CSO

Ms. Beana San Juan State Farm Insurance Pembroke Pines

RE: Manning residence, State Farm Claim # 59-C577-142

Dear Ms. San Juan:

At your request, I inspected the above noted home, which was located at

Weston, FI

The purpose of my inspection was to determine the degree of structural
damages caused by a recent fire and to make general repair recommendations.

I found a one story, single family home of unknown age, but of modern construction. The walls were masonry and the roof framing system was of wood trusses with plywood sheathing. The home had a concrete tile roof system.

For purposes of this report, it will be assumed that the garage door is in the West to illustrate directions.

The first truss in the North over the garage is not damaged and can be used as is, but the other trusses and jacks South of this truss should be replaced along with all of the plywood over the garage. This repair will necessitate removal and replacement of the roofing system over the garage, but not to include that over the roof that joins the main home and the garage.

It was raining heavily during our visit, and we were unable to access the roof other than to look at it from a ladder. The roof was nail set and no loose tiles existed for us to lift within reach and therefore to determine the tile type. The valleys and ridges were mortar set and matched the field tiles in color. The tile was a reddish brown concrete "S" tile with some texture to the color.

Visual observation clearly illustrated that under 25% of the roof would need to be replaced due to fire, so the 25% rule does not apply and repair is allowed by the South Florida Building Code, Broward County Edition. No other State, County or Local ordinance would require roof replacement, tather than repair of the roof.

The roof tile appears to be one that is currently made, likely a Monier brand, but we could not be

sure without taking a sample or looking at the underside, which we could not do in the rain.

The Public adjuster reported that he had been informed that the color of the tile was not made any more and that in order to repair the roof, that he would have to replace the entire roof. He further reported that the homeowners association rules would not allow a repair of the garage only with tiles of a different color. We observed other homes in the area that had been re-roofed with similar tile, but they had been entirely re-roofed entirely different color.

Based on our experience, it is very likely that the type of tile used, without regard to color or finish, is still manufactured.

We do not have any information on whether the color can be matched as color matching is not a question we have often addressed. If you wish us to make this determination, we would remove a tile and determine if it can be matched. This may cause damage to the tile removed and adjacent tiles and to due to this, we would request that permission of State Farm and the Insured be granted before proceeding. As an alternative to this, if the Insured or the PA could make a tile available to us, it would be easier.

The masonry wall to the North, for approximately 4 feet East of the entry door was damaged to the point that it should be replaced. This repair will require bracing of the roof that joins the garage with the main home.

All other garage walls showed some minor hairline cracks caused by the fire but these cracks are repairable and replacement is not required. The tie beam was not damaged and does not require replacement or repair. Matching the stucco in repair of the walls may be a problem and it may be necessary to completely re-stucco the garage to prevent the repair from showing.

The condition of the concrete slab on grade floor is unknown to us as it was still covered with debris. It is our experience that in automobile fires, which we are informed that this was, that floor damage beneath the car can usually be expected. If damage exists here, it is likely cosmetic only.

If we thay be of any further service to you in this matter, please call.

Sincerety.

THE REPREVENCINEERING GROUP, INC.

John Pepper/P.E.

330099 4 | - Subsequent to our fire scene examination, VCI conducted research into the detabase of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Defects investigation, regarding the vehicle involved in this fire loss. That data is enclosed with this report, and includes information regarding recalls and compleints concerning this vehicle. It should be noted that no recalls of this vehicle were found in the data that would indicate a fire causal factor within this area of the subject vehicle. However, on page 25 (of 26) of the Compleints section, it should be noted that Compleint #ODI ID: 982878 lists a compleint regarding the electrical system wiring harness under the dash, stating that "flames started coming from undemeath the dash, uncertain of where it originated from". Because of the damage of the subject involved vehicle, VCI could not discern whether a wiring harness problem exited. However, the specific problem listed appears to have occurred while the vehicle was being operated, which was not the case with the involved vehicle in this fire loss.

Aftermarket parts installed on this vehicle included an alarm system, which worked with the keyless door lock mechanism. As stated earlier, Mr. Harvey stated that after the fuse for the ABS system was replaced, he had noted that his alarm system was not working properly. Because of fire damage to the vehicle, VCI was unable to reconstruct the alarm system and its associated wiring components. However, it should be noted that the alarm system would have been "hot" (energized) at the time of the fire.

Based upon the foregoing, it is the professional opinion of Vikra Consultants, Inc. (VCI) that the fire which occurred on April 30, 1999, at 1245 Seagrape Circle, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, had a single point of origin within the 1996 Ford F160 pickup truck that was parked within the garage of the subject residence.

It is further the professional opinion of VCI that this fire had a point of origin within the passenger side of the vehicle, specifically in the area of the engine compartment at the passenger side desh-area. The exact point of fire origin coast not be determined because of the degree of fire damage to the vehicle.

It is further the professional opinion of VCI that the exact cause of this fire remains undetermined at this time.

It is further the professional opinion of VCI that this fire was accidental, in that it was not intentionally set. No evidence of a fire of incendiary nature was noted.

Thank you for allowing VCI to be of service to you in this matter, if you have any further questions, please contact us.

Respectfully submitted.

VIKRA CONSULTANTS, INC.

obert E. Lemons 19

Robert E. Lamona, C.F.E.I.

President

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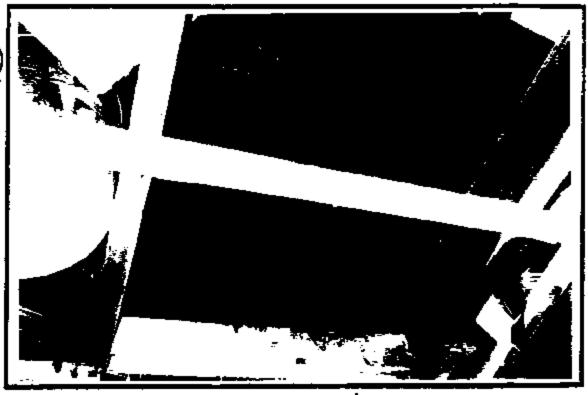
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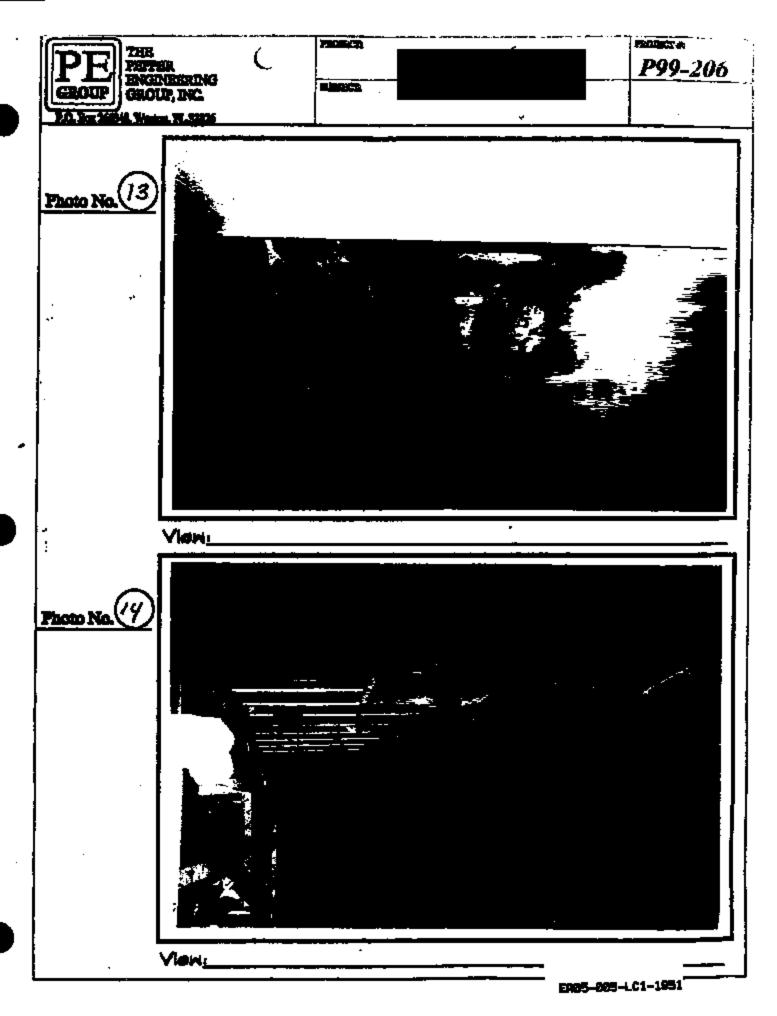
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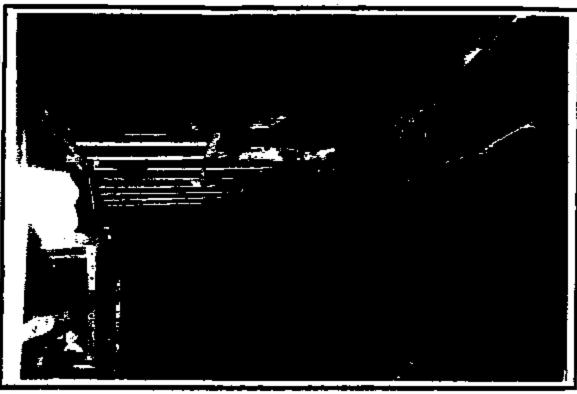
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8730 Pinlon Orive · Lake Worth, Floride 33467 · (561) 433-9232 · Fax (561) 433-9464

June 8, 1999

Ms. Ileens San Juan State Farm Insurance Company 1710 N. University Drive Pembroke Pines, Florida 33024

RE

Insured

Loss Address

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Date of Loss

: April 30, 1999

Claim Number

. AMI 3V. 1934

VCI File Number

: 98-8R-26LR

Dear Ms. San Juan,

children of

Vikra Consultants, Inc. (VCI) has completed its investigation into the above-captioned dwelling fire loss.

A fire scene examination was conducted on May 24, 1999, at which time the scene was completely photo-documented and examined for possible causes of the fire. On that same date, a 1996 Ford F150 pickup truck, which had been parked in the garage of the residence at the time of the fire, was examined and photo-documented at Sadisco salvage yard in West Paim Seech, Florida. Subsequent contact was made with Mr. William Harvey, the former husband of the named insured, and the driver of the subject vehicle. The report of the Broward County Fire Department was ordered and will be sent to you when it is received in this office. Research was conducted into the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration database regarding the subject vehicle. A copy of that data is enclosed as addends to this report.

The loss structure is a one story, single family home, of CBS construction, with a barrel tiled roof, and a detected one car garage. The main axis of the house runs north and south; and the main axis of the garage runs east and west, with the garage roll up door facing west. A tilde door entering the garage is located off a common "breezeway" structure that connects the house to the garage via a walkway on the north side of the garage. The garage was provided with electrical service only. No evidence of failure of the electrical service (branch circuit wiring and outlets) to the garage was noted.

Persons who live in the house are the second (maken name):

g's estranged husband)

and at least two other criticism in the name, presumably

The loss vehicle is identified as a 1996 Ford pickup truck, model F150. The vehicle was examined at Sadisco of West Paim Beach, reference their control number WP177784. The vehicle was found in row 56 and was the vehicle numbered 49 in that row. VCI examined and photographed the vehicle at Sadisco. Because the vehicle is insured by

Alistate Insurance Company, no destructive disessembly/examination was conducted on the vehicle. Alistate insurance Company has a tag on the rear taligate of the vehicle with the Alistate claim number taligate and the vehicle is listed as champaigne in color.

According to <u>he yehicle was parked as it usually is within the</u> garage at the residence. stated that on the day of the fire, at 9:45 PM, he drove his truck to pick up Chinese food at a take out restaurant nearby. He stated that he exited the vehicle at the restaurant. He stated that the alarm on the vehicle automatically sets when the doors are locked. He stated that he returned to the vehicle several minutes later after picking up the food. He entered the vehicle, descrivated the alarm system (placed in "valet" mode via a toggle switch hidden under the dash in the area of the steering column), and started the vehicle. stated that when he started the vehicle, he noted that the ABS (anti-lock brake system) light was on, and he was unable to get the car out of "park". He then put his foot on the brake and attempted to put the car in "reverse", but the transmission was locked and would not allow him to move the shift lever out of the "park" position. move the shift lever out of the "park" position. at M&M Automotive, and explained the problem with his truck. He man spoke who was also at M&M Automotive. Neither of with another friend these men were able to be of help to hen spoke to a third men identified as out the problem was most likely the fuse for the safety lockout feature.

<u>I stated th</u>et at about that time, another friend of his, identified as "Jason", brus ort tarif belate Period stat<u>ed that Jason</u> is a firefighted described as blue in color. He stated that a similar Juson found the fuse tha blue fuse was recladed into the location, and then the ABS light went out. was then able to put the vehicle into "reverse", and then drive it. then turned the vehicle off, reset the alarm, then restarted the vehicle to make sure it was going to work properly. He stated that he noted that the alarm would not reset. He stated that he then turned the vehicle off, and this time, the alarm did reset. He then drove the vehicle to the subject residence. He stated that he noted no odors of envising electrical bunting or any odor of pasoline, or any odor of smoke at that time. drave the vehicle into the garage and parked it there, closed the garage door, and went into the house.

stated that about ten minutes after he arrived home and had parked the truck in the garage (about 10:30 to 10:45 PM), he went back into the garage and retrieved his glasses or wallet from the vehicle. He stated that he noted nothing unusual at that time. He stated that around that sums time, his daughter that the arrived home with a friend.

It is a friend, the stated that his daughter and her friend noticed a slight odor of semething burning as they parked outside the garage. He stated that they

tikl not pay any attention to this, thinking that the odor was probably from the burning wildfires in the Everglades at that time the stated that about 11:00 to 11:15 PM, walked her friend the cut kalls that "s car in the driveway, as it was time for her to leave to go home. He stated that when the girls walked past the garage door, they noted thick black smoke coming from the door. He stated that the girls immediately ran back inside and alerted him to the smoke.

within the passenger compartment and in the engine compartment (passenger side), within the passenger compartment and in the engine compartment (passenger side), stated that he was unable to do anything at that point except to call the Fire Department. He stated that he had gone around to the rollup door of the garage, pushed the code for the submittic garage door, and it want up about four feet, and then stopped. It was a fire parage to get it away from the house, but the garage door wouldn't open far enough to do that. It was from the house, but the garage door wouldn't open far enough to do that. It was stated that also that time, various serosol cans containing various household products that were normally stored in the garage began to explode, and the right front tire of the burning vehicle also exploded. It garden hose onto the fire. However, when the vehicle tire exploded, all persons left the immediate fire scene.

Figure 1 is an exterior view of the house and garage. The errow points to the rollup door to the garage. Smoke and soot staining along this wall and eave indicates that this garage door was open for a period of time during the fire.



FIGURE 1 EXTERIOR VIEW OF HOUSE AND GARAGE

Figure 2 is a view looking into the garage. Debris noted on the floor are items that were stored in the attic space of the garage and were pulled down during the fire. This is the area where the subject truck was parked. A prominent "V" burn pattern was seen on the south side of the garage (at arrow). The heat patterns are consistent with statement of the location where he first saw fire when he opened the side door to the garage.



Floure 2 VIEW INSIDE GARAGE

Figure 3 is an exterior view of the side entry door to the garage. This is the door that Mr. it is a specific opened as he was investigating the source of the smoke his daughter and her friend had reported to him. Burn patterns on this door, as well as smoke staining above the door, indicate that this door was open during the course of this fire.



Figure 3 SIDE DOOR TO GARAGE

Figure 4 is a view of the loss vehicle as it was found by VCI at the Sadisco salvage yard in West Pairn Beach. The arrow points to the Alistate insurance Company claim sticker on the tailgate.

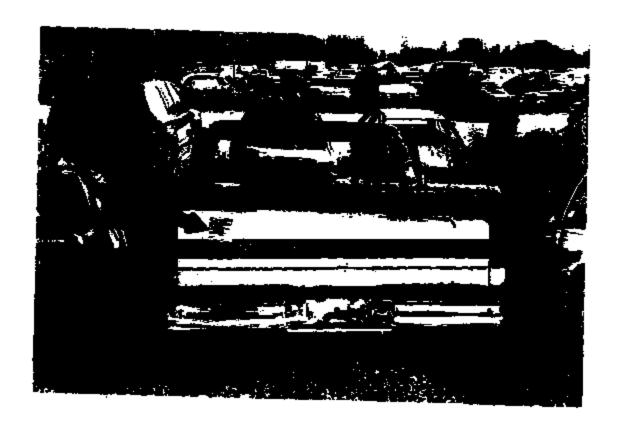


FIGURE 4
REAR OF VEHICLE AT SADISCO SALVAGE YARD

Figure 5 is a view of the front of the loss vehicle. Burn patterns existing on the hood, as well as framework and body panels, reveal the highest amount of heat occurring on the passenger side of the vehicle, in the area of the angine compartment (at arrow).



<u>Figure &</u> FRONT OF VEHICLE

Figure 6 is a view from the bed (rear) of the truck looking forward into the passenger compartment. Again, the greatest amount of fire damage is on the passenger side (et arrow), moving toward the driver side of the vehicle.



Figure 6
PASSENGER COMPARTMENT, FROM BED OF VEHICLE

Figure 7 is a view of the engine compartment of the subject vehicle, Items located on the passenger side of the engine compartment include the battery and the alternator (shown at errow resting atop the battery). The wiring harness in the area of the alternator connection was found to be supple, with no evidence of ercing or shorting noted. It should be noted that Ford Motor Company has had a history of problems with the connection leading to the attemator. This has been eliminated as a causal factor in this fire loss, however. VCI also examined the battery and found that the battery terminals had been burned away, and the associated battery cables were also badly fire damaged to the point where no fallure determination could be made. Also, only a small amount of the engine compartment's original wiring harness remains in this area. It is unknown where the remainder of the wiring harness is. It does not appear to have been removed subsequent to the fire; but there is evidence of teering of the wires that may have been the result of firelighters pulling debris epart within the engine compartment to ensure that the fire was extinguished.

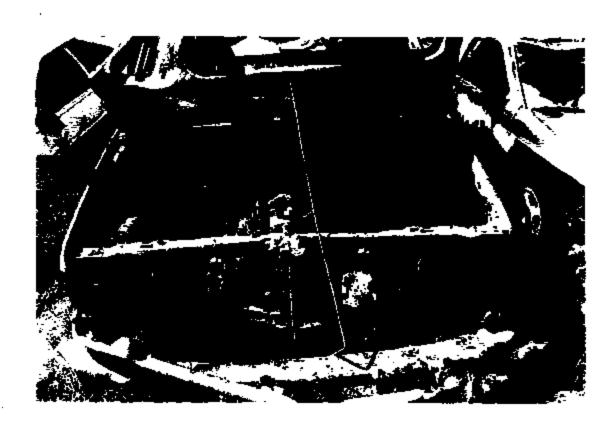


Figure 7
ENGINE COMPARTMENT OF VEHICLE

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AUG-65-1999 10:86 FROM BROWARD CO. FIRE RESCUE TO BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA FIRE/RESCUE ENERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

SUMMARY OF COMPANY OFERATIONS AND STORY OF FIRE/INCIDENT

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LISKA, EXNICIOS & NUNGESSER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

C. B. D. Office Pan American Life Center Suite 2655 601 Poydran Street New Orleans, Louisiana 70130 Pross. (204) 522-3673 (204) 522-3695 PAX: (204) 323-2305 N. O. Baat Office 9701 Lathe Forest Blvd, Saize 101 New Octaans, LA 70127 Plant: (280) 245-1612 (280) 245-1614 PASC (204) 245-1814

PLEASE REPLY TO: C.B.D. OFFICE

VAL PARRICK EXNICIOS

March 24, 2003

Shawn Norton
Claim Analyst
Ford Motor Company
Parklane Towers West
Suite 303
3 Parklane Blvd.
Deerborn, Michigan 48126

RE: Ford Truck Fire of July 19, 2002 in Kenner, Louisiene

Dear Ms. Norton:

Please note that I have been retained to represent the interests of and of their son relative to their claims arising out of the above referenced me. mr. Gus Bazin, claims adjuster for the claims arising out of this matter.

Please advise as to what documentation you would the to receive regarding my clients' claims. Thank you.

With best personal and professional regards, I remain

LAN E ENNAME

VPE/htb

LISKA, EXNICIOS & NUNGESSER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

C. B. D. Office Pun American Life Conter Suits 2655 601 Poydrus Street New Orleans, Louisium 70130 Flora: (204) 523-3475 (204) 523-3485 FAX: (204) 523-358

RECEIVED IN 8 200

N. O. East Office 9701 Lake Porent Blvd. Sujte [0], New Orleans, LA 70127 Plene; (204) 245-1612 (304) 245-1618 PAX: (504) 243-1816

VAL PATRICK EXPOCKES

PLEASE REPLY TO: C.B.D. OFFICE

April 2, 2003

Shawn Norton
Claims Analyst
Ford Motor Company
Parklane Towers West
Suite 300
Three Parklane Blvd.
Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2568

RE:

Date of Loss

July 19, 2002

My Clients

MY CHAILES

Additional Claimants:

and Lafayette Insurance Co.

Lafayette ins. Co. Claim No.

Dear Mr. Norton:

In response to your queries of March 31, 2003, please be advised as follows:

- my clients occupied the premises that was destroyed in the fire;
- my clients were sleeping in their apartment above the area where Ford vehicle was parked, smelled smoke and immediately fled the premises;
- the police and/or fire reports have previously been forwarded to you by A. T. "Gus" Bazin, Adjuster for Lafayette Insurance Co.

date of birth: June 18, 1948 address:

Kenner, LA

Status

SSN

Occupation: dusiness owner

Occupation: Homemaker

already in your possession;

Shawn Norton Ford Motor Company April 1, 2003 Page No. 2

- 6. unknown;
- 7. already in your possession;
- None at this time except experts retained by Lafayette Insurance Co. that are already in your possession;
- 14. Currently being compiled and will be forwarded;

and the second second second second

- 15. unknown;
- 16. unknown

Thank you.

With best personal and professional regards, I remain

Very truly vours,

VAL. P. EXNICION

VPE/rb