

Ford Motor Company

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DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE INVESTIGATION

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Automotive Safety Office
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Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
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Washington, D.C. 20590

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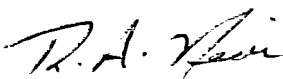
Subject: Ford Recall No. 05S38 – Certain 2005 Model Year Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis, and Lincoln Town Car vehicles

Summary

- Ford Action -- Ford is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2005 model year Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis, and Lincoln Town Car vehicles to inspect for contact between the positive battery cable and the #2 cross member attaching bolt. If the cable shows no sign of damage caused by contact with the bolt it will be relocated and tie-strapped. If the cable has been damaged by contact with the #2 cross member bolt it will be replaced and possible ground points on the vehicle will be inspected for heat related damage and repaired as necessary.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – Approximately 98,836 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Effect on Vehicle Operation – If the positive battery cable has been damaged and an electrical short to ground condition occurs possible heat or fire damage to the cable and/or other components may occur.
- Service Procedure – Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer to have the inspection and relocation of the positive battery cable performed. If necessary the cable will be replaced and any related heat damage repaired.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 -- Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,



James P. Vondale



49 CFR Part 573 -- DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
05S38 -- CERTAIN 2005 MODEL YEAR FORD CROWN VICTORIA, MERCURY GRAND
MARQUIS, AND LINCOLN TOWN CAR VEHICLES -- POSITIVE BATTERY CABLE.

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford Motor Company submits the following information concerning a safety recall action that it is voluntarily initiating.

573.6 (c) (2) -- Potentially Affected Vehicles

Vehicles potentially affected are 2005 model year Ford Crown Victoria and Mercury Grand Marquis vehicles built at the St. Thomas Assembly Plant (STAP) from March 24, 2004, through February 11, 2005, and Lincoln Town Car vehicles built at the Wixom Assembly Plant (WAP) from March 8, 2004, through February 11, 2005.

Because these vehicles are not produced in VIN order, information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-800-392-3673) or by contacting a local Ford dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

573.6 (c) (3) -- Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 98,836 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

573.6 (c) (4) -- Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition

Unknown.

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of the Defect

Due to variations in the vehicle assembly process or as a result of service to the vehicle the positive battery cable may come in contact with the #2 cross member attaching bolt. During normal vehicle operation the insulation may chafe or be worn away and may result in an electrical short to ground condition. If an electrical short to ground occurs possible heat or fire damage to the cable and/or other components, either under-hood or near other possible ground points on the vehicle may occur. Ford is aware of 38 reports or claims involving 31 unique vehicles alleging that the positive battery cable was damaged by contact with the #2 cross member bolt. Twenty of these incidents alleged one or more of the following: burning odors, smoke, and/or fire. There are no reports alleging accidents or injuries.

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events

On August 31, 2005, the Ford Critical Concern Review Group was notified of three fire related incidents involving the steel braided flexible fuel line (located near the fuel delivery module), possibly related to an electrical short. On September 28, 2005, Ford became aware of a fourth incident relating to a fire involving the steel braided fuel line. Subsequent analysis determined that under certain circumstances, if the positive battery cable shorts to the #2 cross member bolt, then the steel braided fuel line may become part of the electrical ground path and may incur heat damage or catch fire.

573.6 (c) (8) -- Service Program

Owners will be instructed to take their vehicles to a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer for an inspection and relocation of the positive battery cable. If necessary the cable will be replaced and any related heat damage also repaired. There will be no charge to owners for this service. Owner notification letters will be mailed on November 18, 2005. Dealer notification letters will be mailed on November 7, 2005.

Ford's general reimbursement plan for the cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners prior to notification of a safety recall was provided to the agency on February 28, 2003.

573.6 (c) (9) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Ford does not at this time plan to make a statement to the media concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Ford will be forwarded to the agency when available.

573.6(c) (11) -- Recall Number

Ford has assigned recall number 05S38 to this action.

573.13 (c) (2) - Ending Date for Reimbursement Eligibility

The ending date for reimbursement eligibility for cost of remedies paid for by vehicle owners per Ford's general reimbursement plan is November 28, 2005.