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**INFORMATION ONLY**

**TO:** All U.S. Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

**SUBJECT:** Awareness Communication: Upcoming Safety Recall 06S44  
Certain 2006 Model Year Escape Hybrid Front Wheel Drive Vehicles -  
Intermediate Driveshaft Inspection

**REASON FOR THIS COMMUNICATION**

To provide you advance information that Ford Motor Company is notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of an upcoming safety recall on the affected vehicles. Once NHTSA has been informed, there is a possibility that you may be contacted by customers about the recall. This notice will help you answer customer questions.

**REASON FOR THIS SAFETY RECALL**

In some of the affected vehicles, the intermediate drive shaft may fracture under load due to a lack of proper heat treating. If fractured, the intermediate shaft will no longer transfer torque to the wheels and shifting in to the park position may not hold the vehicle in a static position. The park brake is not affected by this issue and will hold the vehicle. Vehicle steering and braking performance is not compromised. There are no allegations of accidents/fires and injuries attributed to this condition.

**AFFECTED VEHICLES**

Certain 2006 model year Escape Hybrid front wheel drive vehicles built at the Kansas City Assembly Plant from July 28, 2005 through April 21, 2006. Mariner Hybrid vehicles are not affected and All-Wheel Drive (AWD) Escape Hybrid vehicles are not affected.

**SERVICE ACTION**

It is anticipated that the complete dealer bulletin including repair instructions and other details will be provided to dealers the second week of October 2006, once parts to repair this condition are available.

**CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION**

Owners of affected vehicles will not be notified until after dealers have received service repair and parts ordering information. It is anticipated that customer notification will begin in late-October 2006.

**OASIS AND FSA VIN LISTS**

OASIS and FSA VIN lists will be activated with full dealer bulletin in mid-October.

**QUESTIONS?**

Special Service Support Center (Dealer Only) Questions:..... 1-800-325-5621

Sincerely,

Frank M. Ligon