

**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports<sup>1</sup>**

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Forest River [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. \_\_\_\_\_) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 **Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.**

Date this report was prepared: 11/2/07

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 07E077 (CAREFREE #)

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Forest River  
201 W. Elm St. Millersburg, IN 46543

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Joe Greenlee f:5 74-293-3938

Telephone Number: 574-389-4615 Fax No.: 574-293-3938

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Tina Weaver  
Warranty Processor

Signed:

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<sup>1</sup> Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

**2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:**

**Make(s):** Forest River **Model Years Involved:** 2007,2008 **Model(s):** Flagstaff and Rockwood

**Production Dates: Beginning:** 1/31/2007 **Ending:** 10/30/07

**VIN Range: Beginning:** 157648 **Ending:** 273486

**Vehicle Type:** Camping Trailer **Bodystyle:** Pop-Up

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

None

**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vehicle Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bodystyle:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Vehicles equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Vehicles of all Vehicles manufactured during that time period.**

**II. Identify the Recall Population**

**3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.**

| <b><u>Model</u></b> | <b><u>Year</u></b> | <b><u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved</u></b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|
| Flagstaff           | 2007               | 1201  |
| Flagstaff           | 2008               | 6   |
| Rockwood            | 2007               | 1306  |
| Rockwood            | 2008               | 459   |
|                     |                    |   |
|                     |                    |   |
|                     |                    |   |

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall:** 2983

**4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance:**

**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:**

100%  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance**

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

The cable shaft on the electric winch that raises the roof of the Folding Camping Trailer could break prior to the fuse or circuit breaker tripping if the winch is placed in a stall condition.

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**Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

An incorrect material was used in the manufacture of cable shafts on some production units of the FCT Winch.

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**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.**

Under certain circumstances while the top is being lifted, if the winch is placed into a stall condition, the cable shaft may break prior to the fuse or circuit breaker tripping. The FCT top could then free-fall into the lowered position. A stall condition can occur by: (1) improper setting of the winch limit switch, (2) seizure of the FCT where the winch is activated to raise the FCT top without releasing the top locking latches, or (3) any other mechanical binding that may restrict the top from being raised while the winch is activated.

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**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

A slight stall in the motor may be noticed prior to the shaft breaking, however there is no absolute warning that occurs.

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**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.**

Carefree of Colorado

2145 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Broomfield, Colorado 80020

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**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:**

Kenneth J. Morris, Product Manager

Tel.: 303-410-6240

E-mail: kmorris@carefreeofcolorado.com

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**IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

**6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.**

Carefree notified Forest River September 4, 2007.

**7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**

None

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**V. Identify the Remedy**

**8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.**

Carefree has initiated a recall to repair the FCT Winches. It has already notified OEMs and distributors to prevent affected winches in their inventory from being installed on new units and to assure that installed but unsold units on OEM premises are repaired or replaced prior to further distribution.

Carefree will further notify affected OEMs and distributors of the specifics of the recall plan as soon as NHTSA approves the Notice to OEM Customers and distributors, which Carefree submitted to NHTSA via e-mail on September 25, 2007, and upon NHTSA's approval of the recall plan described herein. The recall notice requests that affected customers, including OEMs and/or distributors, immediately contact NHTSA and institute a safety recall of any vehicles that contain an FCT Winch produced during the period between

February 2007 and August 2007. Carefree recommends that dealers, as owners of potentially affected camper trailers, inspect their inventory to determine if any of their camping trailers contain a defective FCT Winch and, if so, to repair or replace the defective component prior to selling the vehicle to consumers. Carefree also recommends that OEMs and distributors notify potentially affected individual purchasers of camping trailers of the recall and instruct those owners to promptly schedule an appointment with their dealer so that the dealer can determine if the unit is affected, and if so, arrange for the service. Service consists of replacement of the affected cable shaft.

Carefree will fully reimburse OEMs, distributors, dealers and customers for the cost to repair or replace the FCT Winch. Carefree will provide all the parts necessary to repair affected FCT Winches at no charge to OEMs and dealers. Carefree will reimburse dealers for .5 hours of labor at the dealers' posted shop rate for dealers who use Carefree's recall warranty form. Carefree will make arrangements to have all OEM stock and yard inventory updated per the recall.

**9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

See above.

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

The good cable shafts have been identified by a white painted dot on the end of the shaft.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

NA  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

Notify dealer and owner on November 15, 2007

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## **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) or by E-Mail to [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov) for review prior to mailing.**

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.**

**SEE ATTACHED CABLE SHAFT REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTION AND POWERWINCH MODEL P55000 FOLDING CAMPER WINCH INSTALLATION AND OPERATION MANUAL**