



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

August 30, 2011

MR. JAN URBAHN  
GENERAL MANAGER, SAFETY ENGINEERING  
AND INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS  
BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC  
PO BOX 1227  
WESTWOOD, NJ 07675-1227

NVS-215kjs  
11V-441

**SUBJECT: FUEL FILTER HEATER/POSSIBLE FIRE**

**DEAR MR. URBAHN:**

This letter serves to acknowledge BMW of North America, LLC's (BMW) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall campaign which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the vehicles listed below.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:** BMW/X5/2009  
**Mfg's Report Date:** August 18, 2011

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 11V-441

**Components:** FUEL SYSTEM, DIESEL: PRE-HEATER

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 2,120

**Summary:**

BMW IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2009 X5 XDRIVE35D VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH A DIESEL ENGINE AND MANUFACTURED FROM OCTOBER 1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 12, 2009. THE FUEL FILTER HEATER, WHICH IS USED FOR WARMING UP THE DIESEL FUEL DURING VEHICLE OPERATION AT LOW OUTSIDE TEMPERATURES, COULD EXPERIENCE AN ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD CONDITION AND BECOME PERMANENTLY ACTIVATED.

**Consequence:**

THE FUEL FILTER HEATER COULD REMAIN ACTIVATED EVEN WHEN THE IGNITION IS OFF AND LEAD TO A DEAD BATTERY. THE UNIT COULD ALSO OVERHEAT, POSSIBLY LEADING TO A VEHICLE FIRE.

**Remedy:**

BMW WILL NOTIFY OWNERS, AND DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE FUEL FILTER HEATER FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING OCTOBER 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT BMW CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND SERVICES AT 1-800-525-7417.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

We have received BMW's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

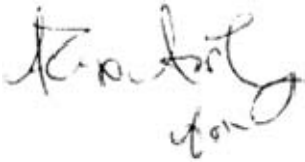
Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-5227, by email at [Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov](mailto:Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you toward a successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric Willard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ric Willard  
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement