



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 7, 2011

MR. WES CHESTNUT
SENIOR COMPLIANCE ANALYST
SPARTAN CHASSIS, INC.
1000 REYNOLDS ROAD
CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

NVS-215kjs
11V-453

Subject: OVERHEATING BATTERY SEPARATOR/POSSIBLE FIRE

Dear MR. CHESTNUT:

This letter serves to acknowledge Spartan Chassis, Inc.'s (Spartan) 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:

UTILMASTER/TRUCK BODY/2008-2011

NHTSA Campaign Number: 11V-453

Mfg's Report Date: August 26, 2011

Components: EQUIPMENT:ELECTRICAL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 174

Summary:

SPARTAN CHASSIS (SPARTAN), THE PARENT COMPANY OF UTILIMASTER, IS RECALLING CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2008-2011 UTILIMASTER TRUCK BODIES MANUFACTURED FROM JANUARY 25, 2008, THROUGH MARCH 19, 2011, EQUIPPED WITH A SURE POWER BATTERY SEPARATOR, PART NUMBER 16511893 (MODEL 1314) OR 16512967 (MODEL 1315). SUSPECT VEHICLES, IN THEIR AS- BUILT CONFIGURATION, HAD THE SURE POWER BATTERY SEPARATOR INSTALLED ON THE INBOARD SIDE OF THE CURB SIDE RAIL. THESE BATTERY SEPARATORS MAY OVERHEAT.

Consequence:

OVERHEATING OF THE BATTERY SEPARATOR CAN RESULT IN SMOKE AND POSSIBLY A FIRE.

Remedy:

UTILIMASTER WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE BATTERY SEPARATOR FREE OF CHARGE. THE SAFETY RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING SEPTEMBER 2011. OWNERS MAY CONTACT UTILIMASTER AT 1-800-582-3454.

Notes:

OWNERS MAY ALSO 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 Spartan'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:

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 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter in which the campaign was initiated. Thereafter, quarterly reports will be due on or before 30 days after 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, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,



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

