



April 9, 2012

City of Bridgman
9765 Maple Street
P. O. Box 366
Bridgman, MI 49106

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

**RE: Safety Recall L-01
2003-2012 KME AerialCat Vehicles Equipped with Electronic Controls
Manufactured between July 2003 and March 2012**

Dear Customer:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. ("KME") has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain model year 2003 through 2012 KME AerialCat model emergency vehicles equipped with Parker Hannifin electronic controls and manufactured between July 2003 and March 2012.

KME has determined that some aerial fire apparatus that contain Parker Hannifin electronic controls have experienced unintended movement of the ladder upon activation of the dead man's switch at the turntable. When an operator activates the dead man's switch of a subject aerial truck, the ladder could move unexpectedly, posing a safety risk to individuals or property in the event the operator fails to follow recommended procedures. There is no warning that precedes the occurrence of unintended movement of the aerial ladder. While KME has not been able to determine the cause of the defect, it has determined that all aerial trucks built during this timeframe with electronic controls are susceptible to the defect.

Therefore, KME is notifying you, as an owner of one or more of the subject KME aerial trucks, of this safety recall, and advising you of the manner in which to arrange for completion of the services needed to remedy the defect. KME will do the following: (1) adjust the dead band setting of the electronic joystick controller to 10%; (2) modify the controller program to lock out the aerial platform joystick control immediately in the event of the presence of a command signal upon activation of the dead man's switch; and, (3) modify the controller program to disable all tip/platform aerial movement controls

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. – d/b/a KME Fire Apparatus

One Industrial Complex, Nesquehoning, PA 18240 USA

(800) 235-3928 Toll Free ▪ (570) 669-9461 Ph ▪ kme@kovatch.com ▪ www.kovatch.com

immediately upon activation of the dead man's switch at the turntable. Repairs will be performed free of charge. It is anticipated that the required work may take up to four hours to complete. Upon completion of the repairs, your aerial vehicle will not have unintended movement of the ladder upon activation of the dead man's switch.

Please write or email to schedule the repair:

Address:
Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.
One Industrial Complex
Nesquehoning, PA 18240
ATTN: Jim Hauser

Email:
Jhauser@kovatch.com

If you have already had your aerial vehicle(s) repaired, please confirm that to us by completing the attached form, and faxing or e-mailing it to KME as indicated.

If you feel that you have not received the safety defect remedy without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590 or call 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We recognize the inconvenience this causes you and your staff. However, this action reflects KME's commitment to high quality standards and ensuring that our products fully meet your expectations. Your failure to arrange for this repair would result in a continuing risk that unintended movement of the ladder on your aerial truck(s), upon activation of the dead man's switch, may occur, resulting in a safety hazard. Please feel free to call Jim Hauser in our Customer Service Department at (570) 273-2809 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. KOVATCH, IV
Director of Customer Service