



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 6, 2015

Mr. Wes Chestnut  
Spartan Motors, Inc.  
1541 Reynolds Road  
Charlotte, MI 48813

NVS-215MR  
15V-170

**Subject:** Fuel/Water Separator Heater Connectors may Melt

Dear Mr. Chestnut:

This letter serves to acknowledge Spartan Motors, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) 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:**

SPARTAN/SB/2011-2016

**Mfr's Report Date:** March 20, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-170

**Components:**

FUEL SYSTEM, DIESEL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 292

**Problem Description:**

Spartan Motors, Inc. (Spartan) is recalling certain model year 2011-2016 School Bus chassis manufactured April 21, 2011, to February 26, 2015. The fuel/water separator heater terminals and connectors may melt and allow air into the fuel system resulting in an engine stall. Additionally, heat from the terminals may ignite the connector, harness, and other materials.

**Consequence:**

An engine stall increases the risk of a crash. Overheated terminals may result in a vehicle fire.

**Remedy:**

The remedy for this recall is still under development, but owners have been advised to disconnect the harness from the heated fuel/water separator as an interim remedy. This recall began March 20, 2015. Owners may contact Spartan customer service at 1-517-543-6400. Spartan's number for this recall is 15006.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please provide a revised Defect Information Report describing Spartan's remedy for this issue once it has been determined.

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).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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 Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at 202-366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement