



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

January 9, 2017

Mr. Chris Morrison  
Warranty Manager  
Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.  
1 Industrial Complex  
Nesquehoning, PA 18240

NEF-150KS  
16V-926

**Subject:** Brakes may Engage Unexpectedly

Dear Mr. Morrison:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.'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:**

KME/PREDATOR AERIAL/2009-2011  
KME/PREDATOR SS AERIAL/2009-2016

**Mfr's Report Date:** December 19, 2016

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 16V-926

**Components:**

POWER TRAIN:AXLE ASSEMBLY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 9

**Problem Description:**

Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. (KME) is recalling certain model year 2009-2016 Predator SS Aerial vehicles manufactured June 20, 2008, to May 23, 2016, and 2009-2011 Predator Aerial vehicles manufactured March 6, 2009, to January 14, 2011. The affected vehicles have tandem rear axles with S-cam brakes that may engage without the brake pedal being pressed.

**Consequence:**

If the brakes engage, a rear wheel may lock up increasing the risk of a crash. Additionally, the excessive heat caused may increase the risk of a fire.

**Remedy:**

KME will notify owners, and dealers will inspect and tighten the S-cam bracket hardware, as necessary, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin February 1, 2017. Owners may contact KME customer service at 1-800-235-3926.

**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 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.

The information in your report suggests that KME may have been aware of this issue more than five business days before filing a report with NHTSA. Please amend your supplied chronology to include the significant events between the October wheel lock up and the December 19 filing with NHTSA.

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 (202) 366-5227, or 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.

Sincerely,



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