

**2021-2023MY Sorento  
HVAC Wire Harness  
Basis of Safety Defect Determination 573.6(c)(6)**

October 4, 2024	During normal review of field claims, Kia NA Safety Office engineer evaluates a third-party fire Cause & Origin report on a 2023MY Sorento LX involving a customer allegation of a hot rubber smell coming from the AC vent and subsequent fire. The C&O report identified the “origin of fire is located within the instrument panel on the passenger side, forward of the glove box and above and to the left of the HVAC blower motor. The cause of the fire is undetermined.” Kia NA Safety Office works with customer to repurchase the 2023MY Sorento LX for further investigation and begins to monitor field data.
December 27, 2024	Kia North America receives repurchased 2023MY Sorento LX for further evaluation.
January 13, 2025	Kia NA Safety Office requests support from Kia Corporation (Kia HQ) to perform a joint evaluation of the repurchased 2023MY Sorento LX vehicle and begins warranty parts collection.
February 5, 2025— February 7, 2025	Further investigation of the repurchased 2023MY Sorento LX is conducted. X-ray analysis of the damaged blower motor resistor and adjoining wire harness indicate origin at terminal #2 of the connection between the two components. The circuit involving terminal #2 controls blower fan speed 3. Cause of the damage is unknown.
February 14, 2025— March 28, 2025	Kia NA Safety Office collects warranty returned wire harnesses and resistors with localized melting at the connection and ships them to Kia HQ for further evaluation.
April 18, 2025—August 12, 2025	Kia NA Safety Office and Kia HQ work to duplicate the issue on vehicles under various operating conditions but is unable to duplicate. Kia HQ evaluates warranty returned parts and confirms localized melting damage to terminal #2. Cause of damage is unknown. Kia HQ and wire harness supplier work together to further investigate.
September 16, 2025	Kia HQ provides its investigation findings with the wire harness supplier to Kia NA Safety Office. Although no root cause of localized melting could be identified, production variances due to quality control including thinner than nominal wiring gauge are suspected as contributing factors for overheating while using fan speed 3 of the HVAC system.

September 17, 2025	Kia NA Safety Office reviews field data across all data sources and finds twenty-five VINs with localized connector melting, one (1) localized connector fire, and one (1) vehicle fire (dates of receipt 8/16/2024—6/16/2025).
September 18, 2025	Kia NA Safety Office decides to recall all 2021-2023MY Sorento LX vehicles. No accidents or injuries.