U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V012

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Submission Date: May 12, 2026
NHTSA Recall No.: 26V012
Manufacturer Recall No.: 25SA4

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Ford Motor Company
Address: 20000 Rotunda Drive
Mezzanine
Dearborn MI, 48124

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 2,403
Estimated percentage with defect: 1%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2024-2024 FORD EXPLORER
Product Category: Light Vehicles
Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle
Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel
Production Dates: May 20, 2023 - Apr 25, 2024
Number of potentially involved: 986
Descriptive Information:

Affected vehicles are equipped with suspect engine block heater. These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

986 Explorer vehicles are affected.

Vehicle 2: 2019-2019 FORD EXPLORER
Product Category: Light Vehicles
Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle
Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel
Production Dates: Sep 16, 2018 - Feb 28, 2019
Number of potentially involved: 919
Descriptive Information:

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Affected vehicles are equipped with suspect engine block heater. These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

919 Explorer vehicles are affected.

Vehicle 3: 2016-2018 FORD FOCUS

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Passenger Car

Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Aug 10, 2015 - Dec 22, 2017

Number of potentially involved: 498

Descriptive Information:

Affected Ford Focus RS vehicles are equipped with suspect engine block heater. These vehicles are not produced in VIN order. Information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by either calling Ford's toll-free line (1-866-436-7332) or by contacting a local Ford or Lincoln dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles from the Ford On-line Automotive Service Information System (OASIS) database.

438 Focus vehicles are affected.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

In the affected vehicles, the engine block heater may develop a coolant leak through its element pins which could cause a resistive short circuit while the engine block heater system is plugged in.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

A short circuit in the engine block heater increases the risk of an underhood fire. The risk of underhood fire is increased when the block heater is plugged into a 110-volt electrical supply without a functional circuit breaker or Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) power outlet.

Description of the cause:

Engine block heater solder joints may develop cracks around the element base which allow coolant to infiltrate into the block heater to cord interface. Evaporation of this coolant leaves behind electrically conductive salt deposits. Over time, these deposits accumulate, forming a salt bridge or corroding electrical connections, which could establish an electrical path to ground and may result in a resistive short circuit.

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Identification of any warning that can occur:

The customer may notice coolant spots on the driveway or garage floor, a loss of cabin heat, powertrain unit overheating, or a warning indicator for a low coolant level. Additionally, the condition can cause heat damage to the block heater electrical wiring and connector and the customer may notice an odor or smoke.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Phillips and Temro Industries

Address: 9700 West 74th Street
Eden Prairie MN, 55344

Country: United States

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Engine Block Heater

Component Description: Engine Block Heater

Component Part Number: GJ7T-6A051-AA

Component Name 2: Engine Block Heater

Component Description: Engine Block Heater

Component Part Number: GJ7T-6A051-BA

Chronology

On January 16, 2025, an issue pertaining to potential Engine Block Heater (EBH) fires across multiple model years and vehicle lines was brought to Ford's Critical Concern Review Group for review.

From February through May 2025, Ford Supplier Technical Assistance and Engineering performed onsite reviews of the supplier's material and manufacturing quality records, confirming that EBHs were manufactured within design specifications. Ford and the supplier executed a series of tests on GJ7T EBHs which revealed that coolant could seep into the cord pocket, potentially leading to a short circuit when energized with 110-V power.

On February 17, 2025, Ford also received a failed EBH from a fire-damaged vehicle. An air leak test confirmed air egress through these cracks into the power cord pocket and high-magnification images also showed external cracks in the solder joint around the base of the heater element. Ford Central Labs performed a Fourier Transform Infra-Red (FTIR) analysis, Computed tomography scan (CT-scan), and X-ray analysis. These tests indicated the presence of coolant residues inside the EBH to power cord

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interface, also revealing solder voids, and crack generation within the solder joint. The root cause for the solder voids and cracks remains undetermined.

This was further corroborated between June and July 2025, when Ford engineering analyzed three (3) additional warranty returned EBHs with customer complaints of tripped electrical breakers and shorting. These analyses also indicated solder voids and cracks failures, consistent with the returned part.

In August, 2025, based on these laboratory analyses, Ford and the supplier concluded that coolant leakage through electrical element pins via solder cracks into the EBH to power cord interface could, over time, lead to the formation of a salt bridge or corrosion of electrical connections, creating an electrical path to ground and resulting in a resistive short circuit.

As of September 10, 2025, Ford is aware of 6 customer complaints, 21 Transport Canada log claims, and 30 legal claims, representing a total of 46 unique VINs that allege vehicle fire due to the block heater. The majority of the incidents occurred in Canada.

On October 3, 2025, Ford approved Field Service Action (FSA) 25SA4 (NHTSA Recall 25V685) for this issue.

On October 21, 2025, a discrepancy regarding the affected population was identified in the FSA 25SA4 filing.

The Ford Engineering and CCRG team thoroughly reviewed the affected vehicle population and identified that certain vehicles were incorrectly omitted from the FSA population.

On January 8, 2026, Ford approved Field Service Action (FSA) 25SA4 Amendment for this issue to add the missing vehicle population.

Ford is not aware of any reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Related NHTSA Recall Number: 25V685

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Replace

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Owners will be notified by mail and instructed to take their vehicle to a Ford or Lincoln dealer and offered two options: (1) to have the engine block heater replaced when a newly designed engine block heater becomes available; or (2) to replace the engine block heater element with a threaded blanking plug and remove the engine block heater cord from the engine compartment. There will be no charge for this service. Owners will be instructed to refrain from plugging in their vehicle's block heater until the vehicle is remedied.

Ford will forward a copy of the notification letters to dealers and affected owners to the department when available.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The recalled engine block heater, part number GJ7T-6A051 AA/BA, will be replaced with a newly designed engine block heater.

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Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Not required per 49 Part 573

Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Notification to dealers is expected to occur on January 16, 2026. Mailing of interim owner notification letters is expected to begin February 9, 2026, and is expected to be completed by February 13, 2026. Mailing of remedy owner notification letters is expected to begin April 13, 2026, and is expected to be completed by April 17, 2026. The date VINs are planned to be searchable is January 16, 2026.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Jan 16, 2026 - Jan 20, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: Feb 09, 2026 - Feb 13, 2026 ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Apr 13, 2026 - Apr 17, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Jan 16, 2026