



FORD RECALLS 4.5 MILLION ADDITIONAL VEHICLES IN SWITCH RECALL

FAULTY PART COULD CAUSE FIRE; LARGEST RECALL IN FORD'S HISTORY

Ford Motor Co. says it will add 4.5 million older-model vehicles to the list of those recalled because a defective cruise control switch could cause a fire.

Ford says 1.1 million Ford Windstar minivans will be recalled for repairs due to a small risk of fires.

The company says another 3.4 million Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles with the same switches also will be recalled even though there have been no reports of fires. Those vehicles mainly are trucks and SUVs.

All vehicles covered by the recall are from the 1992 to 2003 model years.

This is Ford's seventh recall due to the Texas Instruments speed control switches. The recalls cover a total of 14.3 million vehicles and combined are the largest in Ford's history

Summary of the Ford Fire Recalls

Both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Ford Motor Co. have issued several recalls of millions of Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles as a result of a defective cruise control switch that can lead to a spontaneous fire, even when the vehicle is turned off, parked and unattended.

The most recent of this Ford cruise control recalls occurred on September 9, 2008, when the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration re-recalled millions of Ford, Lincoln and Mercury SUV's pickup trucks, vans and cars. This advisory was the second recall warning from the safety agency issued in 2008 and is meant to bring in nearly 5 million cars, trucks and SUVs which still have not been brought in for repair since an earlier recall of 12 million vehicles in February 2008.

The federal safety agency has received nearly 60 complaints of fires that occurred in the affected vehicles, which are listed below. In addition, the agency stated that it is also currently investigating a similar problem in Ford Windstar vans. The agency has received more than 130 complaints of alleged fires in those vehicles.

Vehicles Included in September 2008 NHTSA Cruise Control Fire Recall

- 1993 - 2004 Ford F150
- 1993 - 1999 Ford F250 (gasoline engine)
- 1993 - 1996 Ford Bronco
- 1994 - 1996 Ford Econoline
- 1997 - 2002 Ford Expedition
- 1998 - 2002 Lincoln Navigator
- 1998 - 2002 Ford Ranger
- 1992 - 1998 Ford Crown Victoria, Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car
- 1993 - 1998 Lincoln Mark VIII
- 1993 - 1995 Ford Taurus SHO with automatic transmission
- 1994 - Mercury Capri
- 1998 - 2001 Ford Explorer and Mercury Mountaineer

2001 - 2002 Ford Explorer Sport and Explorer Sport Trac
1992 - 1993 and 1997 - 2003 Ford E-150-350 gasoline or natural gas vehicles
2002 - Ford E-550 gasoline engine vehicles
1996 - 2003 Ford E-450 gasoline or natural gas vehicles
1994 - 2002 Ford F-250 through F-550 Super Duty trucks (gasoline engine)
2000 - 2002 Ford Excursion (gasoline engine)
2003 - F250 - F550 Super Duty, Ford Excursion
1995 - 2002 Ford F53 Motor home chassis
2002 - 2003 Lincoln Blackwood

Ford, Lincoln and Mercury owners are urged to contact their local dealers at 888-222-2751 to repair their defective cruise control switches or contact NHTSA's auto safety hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

The last recall issued by Ford Motor Co. occurred on August 3, 2007, when the auto manufacturer again expanded the recall of Ford vehicles due to problems associated with the speed control deactivation system. The latest recall included several additional model years of some vehicles previously affected by the switch recall, as well as a few new models of cars, trucks and SUVs, for a total of 3.6 million vehicles recalled. Owners of the vehicles included in this recall will receive notices in the mail urging them to visit dealers to install a corrective fused wiring harness to repair the allegedly defective cruise control switch.

The August 2007 recall greatly widens the scope of previous Ford recalls made in March 2007, August 2006 and January/ September 2005. The March recall consisted of 155,000 2003 model year trucks, SUVs and cars. The January recall consisted of almost 800,000 Ford pickups and sport utility vehicles, including model year 2000 Ford F-150s, Ford Expeditions and Lincoln Navigators and 2001 F-Series Super crew trucks made at the same time, while the September 7, 2005, recall included 3.8 million full-size pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles.

NHTSA first opened an investigation into the alleged switch defect in November 2004. In March 2005, NHTSA began a second investigation of the issue, this time including Ford F-150 pickups from 1995-1999 and 2001-2002 model years, and Ford Expeditions and Lincoln Navigators from the 1997-1999 and 2001-2002 model years.

The 2005 recall came less than two weeks after consumer advocate Ralph Nader criticized Ford for delaying action on the issue. Up to that point, NHTSA had received more than 1,000 complaints of engine fires linked to the faulty switch.



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