

SPARTAN MOTORS

Dear Fire Truck Owner,

Spartan Motors, Inc. has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 1993 to 1998 Fire Trucks.

Your vehicle could exhibit some degree of over-steer depending on the resistance and tag axle turn angle. The lock mechanism for the tag axle is designed to engage a hole in the clamp plate when the axle is steered straight ahead. Its purpose is to allow a vehicle to turn while moving in the reverse direction without having the self-steer axle steer in the opposite direction.

If a driver accelerates in a turn above 20-mph in a forward motion, the lock pin actuates and causes the axle to resist returning to the straight-ahead position after the turn is completed. This is because the lock pin binds on the clamp plate surface. This can cause excessive wear in the lock pin and/or the clamp plate hole and the axle may not straighten out after turning. This action could increase the risk of loss of control of the vehicle.

“THE TAG AXLE STEERING MUST BE PERMANENTLY LOCKED UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE”.

The procedure may be performed as follows:-

Park the vehicle with the front and tag axles as straight as possible. Turn-off engine.

Locate the tag axle relay, located behind the main gauge panel. Remove the relay.

Build a jump wire by taking a three-inch long piece of 14 AWG wire terminating it on both ends with a Packard terminal # 02971962.

Plug the jumper into terminals 30 and 87 of the relay block

Re-start the engine. Put the vehicle into a hard circle turn. With the truck in the hard turn, stop and shut down the engine.

Go to the rear of the chassis. Visually check to see if the tag axle is lined up parallel with the drive axle or if it is still in the turn position.

If the tag axle is aligned with the drive axle, you have correctly overridden the steerable tag locking circuit. If it is not aligned you must remove the jumper, restart the engine, straighten out the vehicle and repeat the procedure over again.

NOTE:- with every cycle of the ignition switch, the locking pin solenoid will energize and reenergize causing the locking pin itself to extend and retract. This means that if the ignition switch is in the “OFF” position and the vehicle is moved (either by towing or releasing the park brake) the locking pin may no longer be in correct alignment to lock the axle and again the above procedure must be repeated.

THE TAG AXLE ON YOUR VEHICLE(S) MUST BE REPLACED, IN IT(S) ENTIRETY, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. This procedure is to be performed at Spartan Motors, 1000 Reynolds Rd. Charlotte, MI 48813. Appointments may be made by calling Brenda Parker at 1-800-543-4277 x 406.

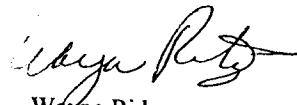
Recall service bulletins are being drawn up and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has been notified as well. This letter is to inform you in advance of the upcoming recall notice that will be sent to you and to make you immediately of the potentially unsafe driving situation that could occur.

It is our intention to have this recall performed on your Fire Truck as soon as we are able, with as little disruption to your commitments as possible.

If you have any technical questions, please call Jerry Hennessey immediately at:- 1-800-543-5008 ext. 230.

We at Spartan Motors, Inc. view your safety as well as your satisfaction with our product to be extremely important to us and trust that you will support this program at your earliest convenience,.

Sincerely,



Wayne Ridge
Product Improvement Administrator