



TO :

FROM : National Wildfire Coordinating Group

REPLY TO : NWCG@nifc.gov

DATE : 08/10/2004

SUBJECT : SAFETY ADVISORY : Utility Box Mounting Brackets- Chevrolet 2500 HD Crew Cab Pickups

Several IHC and other crews utilize six-passenger pickups with mounted utility box and camper shell as their mode of transportation. The following issue was identified during an inspection made prior to release of several hotshot crews from a fire use incident in California . **Those crews and units utilizing pedestal mounts and hardware on GM and Dodge equipment please take note .**

The IMT involved is to be commended for their attention to these details that so often go unattended.

This issue highlights the importance of vehicle inspections performed during demobilization .

ISSUE: Cracked pedestal (utility box) mounts on Chevrolet 2500 HD six-passenger (crew cab pickups)

July 26, 2004

SAFENET

NARRATIVE:

During a demobilization of Plumas National Forest Crew #1, (a Type 2 Crew) four 2001 Chevy 2500 heavy-duty "six-pack" pickups (with utility box and camper shell/canopy cover on top of utility box) were inspected. Of the four vehicles, two trucks had cracked front utility box mounts at the main frame area. One of the brackets was completely severed, causing the box to shift to one side of the vehicle and lower approximately 1/2 inch. This caused fuel tank filler hose to be crimped. Continued operations in these conditions could result in: 1) sparking from broken bracket 2) fuel spillage on ground (or possible vehicle fire) 3) expensive body damage 4) lost time of vehicle.

SUGGESTED CORRECTIVE ACTION:

1. Check the loaded weight of the vehicle
2. Utilize the "mid-ship" frame mount
3. Constant monitoring of brackets
4. Compare the GVW sticker on vehicle to the actual loaded vehicle weight.

July 27, 2004

FOLLOW-UP

On July 25 during the demob inspection of the Summit Fire Use Module (Stanislaus Natl Forest) vehicle, the EQUM Mike Fipps found a similar problem, but to a much lesser extent, than the Plumas crew buggies. In this instance it was a hair line crack of the same bracket that was broken on the Plumas vehicles. Again the "mid-ship" frame mount was not utilized.

Stanislaus vehicle was a 2001 Chevy 2500 pickup with license # A298239

The utility box & canopy cover came from Monroe Truck Equip., Flint Michigan.

August 9, 2004

FOLLOW-UP

The issue is with the GM pedestal mount. Not the body or how the body was mounted. Bodies were mounted in compliance with the manufacturers direction. We have also found a cracked pedestal mount on a Dodge which uses the same design as GM. Since receiving the SAFENET notification we have directed fleet manager's to have all GM's using the pedestal mount to be inspected and we have contacted GM with the initial complaint. We are awaiting feed back from the FM's to get to GM. GM engineering is looking into the issue now. We do know that the design of the pedestal mount changed in 2000. We have also found this has been an ongoing, unreported, issue where forest just been repairing the pedestal mount when they have found them broken.

**For more information , please contact Ed Hollenshead , USDA FS Fire Operations
Safety Officer , (208) 387-5102**
