

Dear Owner:

81V-008 (06)

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

On June 9, 1980, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) made an initial determination that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 1970-1979 and certain 1980 Ford vehicles equipped with FMX, C-3, C-4, C-6 or JATCO automatic transmissions. According to NHTSA's initial determination, the park gear may not be securely engaged after the operator has attempted to shift the gear selector lever to "P" (Park) and the transmission may shift to reverse by itself without warning, allowing the vehicle to move when it is unattended. NHTSA also initially determined that such uncontrolled vehicle movement may result and has resulted in injury to or death of the occupants of the vehicle or to persons outside the vehicle.

Ford wishes to warn owners and drivers of these vehicles of the serious hazard which may result if the vehicle is not securely engaged in park and is left unattended without shutting off the engine and fully applying the brake, and to remind them of the precautions set out in their owners manuals. In order to resolve this matter, Ford has produced the enclosed self-sticking label to serve as a day-to-day reminder to you and to alert others who may drive your vehicle. Ford strongly urges you to place the label in a conspicuous location in your vehicle, such as the dashboard or the sunvisor, and to observe the following safety precautions:

- Never leave a vehicle unattended without first turning off the engine and securing the parking brake fully.
- When shifting to park, be sure that you have rotated the gearshift lever as far as it will go in a counterclockwise direction by first pulling the lever toward the steering wheel and then rotating it to the left as far as it will go. If you are not sure the transmission is in park, give the gear selector a firmer push toward the park position while pulling it toward you.
- Always check whether the vehicle is in the "P" (Park) position after you have shifted it. To determine if the gearshift lever is fully engaged in the park position, you should not be able to rotate it toward reverse unless you first pull it toward you.
- For vehicles equipped with floor-mounted gearshift selector levers, when shifting into the "P" (Park) position, move the lever all the way forward while fully depressing the release button. To determine if the gearshift lever is in the "P" (Park) position, you should not be able to move it toward reverse unless you first depress the release button.

- The gearshift linkage holds the transmission in the park position. Always keep the vehicle's gearshift linkage in proper maintenance and adjustment.

The enclosed form contains our current record of the vehicle you own. If you no longer own this vehicle, please fill out the appropriate portion on the enclosed prepaid postcard and mail it to us so that we may correct our records.

Should you have any questions relating to this matter, including proper maintenance and operation of the park selector system, please contact a Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer or call _____ at (800) xxx-xxxx. Questions regarding this matter may also be directed to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D. C. 20590.

Sincerely,

IMPORTANT SAFETY PRECAUTION

Before leaving the driver's seat, you should always:

- 1) make sure the gear selector lever is engaged in Park
- 2) set the parking brake fully
- 3) shut off the ignition.

Unexpected and possibly sudden vehicle movement may occur if these precautions are not taken.

Refer to your owners manual for other important safety information.



Owner Relations
Ford Parts and Service Division

3000 Schaefer Road
P. O. Box 1805
Dearborn, Michigan 48121

Dear Owner:

Over the past few years, considerable publicity has been given to reports of automatic transmission-equipped vehicles moving unexpectedly after supposedly shifting from "Park" to "Reverse" by themselves. After extensive study, Ford remains convinced that vehicle park systems work correctly if used correctly and kept in good repair. Unexpected vehicle movement can and does occur on all automatic transmission-equipped vehicles, regardless of make, but these occurrences are due to drivers' inadvertent misplacement of the gear selector lever, or to worn, broken or grossly maladjusted components.

Unexpected vehicle movement incidents occur very rarely, but when they do, serious consequences may result. Ford believes, however, that such incidents can be avoided if before leaving the driver's seat, all drivers observe three commonsense steps to make sure that their automatic transmission-equipped vehicles are securely immobilized. These steps are: 1) making sure the gear selector lever is engaged in "Park", 2) setting the parking brake fully, and 3) shutting off the ignition. It should be remembered that as with any mechanical system, an automatic transmission and its gear shift control linkage must be kept in proper maintenance and adjustment if the park system is to work properly.

With these thoughts in mind, and in the interest of safe vehicle operation, we are enclosing for your use a self-sticking label to remind you of these three commonsense precautions. We encourage you to place the label in a conspicuous location in your vehicle to serve as a day-to-day reminder to those who drive the vehicle. The reminder label summarizes safety precautions set out in Owners Manuals of U. S. manufacturers of vehicles equipped with automatic transmissions.

This letter has been sent to you because your state's vehicle registration records indicate that you own, or recently owned, a pre-1970 model Ford passenger car or light truck equipped with an automatic transmission. But even if you no longer own the Ford vehicle indicated by state records, we encourage you to place the enclosed label in your present vehicle if it is equipped with an automatic transmission. Additional labels are available free of charge at any Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer should you wish to place the day-to-day reminder in other vehicles your family operates.

Sincerely,

Owner Relations
Ford Parts and Service Division