



May 20, 2013

Alexander City Fire & EMS
P. O. Box 552
Alexander City, AL 35011

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

**RE: Safety Recall 2013-E01
KME Fire Apparatus Vehicles having a Grease Fitting in the Steering
Column Shaft that may get caught in the Rubber Steering Column
Cover Manufactured between September 2008 and April 2013**

Dear Customer:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp. ("KME") has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain model year 2009 through 2013 Predator and Panther model emergency vehicles manufactured from September 2008 through April 2013, which vehicles have a grease fitting in the steering column shaft that may get caught in the rubber steering column cover (boot).

A problem may occur when the steering column shaft boot is stepped on over time and is then compressed below the grease fitting. If the problem occurs, the grease fitting can catch and tear the cover or result in a change in handling characteristics of the vehicle, which may result in a crash.

After the initial factory lubrication of the steering shaft, further lubrication is not required on the steering shaft. Since in-service lubrication is not required, the grease fitting can be removed. The grease fitting is press fit into the shaft and needs to be removed with pliers or vice grips. After removal of the fitting, any sharp edges created by the removal must be sanded smooth to prevent damage to the steering column cover. The opening created by removal of the grease fitting can remain open; a plug is not required. Photographs of the grease fitting location before, during and after removal are enclosed, and instructions for performing the remedy are attached for your convenience.

If you have already had your vehicle repaired, please confirm that to us by completing the attached form, and faxing or e-mailing it to KME as indicated on the form.

In the event you have not made arrangements for repair of your KME vehicle, you can make the repair using the attached instructions or you can contact:

Chris Morrison
One Industrial Complex
Nesquehoning, PA 18240
Phone: (570) 669-5577
Fax: (570) 645-9705
Email: cmorrison@kovatch.com

If you feel that you have not received the safety defect remedy without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Federal law requires any lessor who receives a notification of a determination of a safety-related defect or noncompliance pertaining to any leased motor vehicle shall send the notice to the lessee within 10 days.

We recognize the inconvenience this causes you and your staff. However, this action reflects KME's commitment to high quality standards and ensuring that our products fully meet your expectations. Your failure to arrange for this repair results in a continuing risk which may result in a safety hazard. Please feel free to call Ed Opella in our Customer Service Department at (570) 669-5173 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. KOVATCH, IV
Vice President, Director of Customer Service

From: _____

To: Kovatch Mobile Equipment Corp.
One Industrial Complex
Nesquehoning, PA 18240

**RE: Safety Recall 2013-E01
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Date: _____

GSO(s) _____

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The repairs to our KME vehicle in order to correct the above-referenced
defect were completed on _____ by _____
_____.

Please return this form by facsimile transmission to (570) 669-9966 or by E-mail to
lyanega@kovatch.com.



PRODUCT/SERVICE INSPECTION BULLETIN

STEERING COLUMN COVER – STEERING SHAFT GREASE FITTING INTERFERENCE

PROBLEM: KME has been notified of isolated instances in which the grease fitting in the steering column shaft gets caught in the rubber steering column cover. We believe that the problem starts when the steering column shaft boot is stepped on over time, and then is compressed below the grease fitting (picture attached for reference). If this occurs the grease fitting can catch and tear the cover or result in a change in handling characteristics of the vehicle which may result in an accident.



CORRECTIVE ACTION: SEE WORK INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

WORK INSTRUCTIONS

1. After the initial factory lubrication of the steering shaft further lubrication is no longer required on the steering shaft. Since in-service lubrication is no longer required the grease fitting can be removed. The grease fitting is press fit and needs to be removed with pliers or vice grips. After removal of the fitting any sharp edges created by removing the fitting need to be sanded and smooth to prevent damage to the steering column cover. The opening created by removal of the grease fitting can remain open, a plug is not required.



Figure 1



Figure 2

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you need technical support or assistance, please call 1-800-235-3928, extension 5173 or E-mail eopella@KOVATCH.com. Please have your vehicle's GSO number ready. You can find this number on the plate located inside the driver side of the cab inside the door.