



**RECEIVED**

*By Recall Management Division at 7:56 am, Jun 26, 2013*

[www.spartanmotors.com](http://www.spartanmotors.com)

p 517.543.6400

f 517.543.5403

June 25, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Attention: Recall Management Division  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. - Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations Spartan Motors, Inc, on behalf of Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. (Spartan Chassis) hereby reports a defect relating to motor vehicle safety. Spartan Chassis has determined a defect involving the Restraints Control Module (RCM), of the Spartan Advanced Protection System (APS), installed in approximately 70 Emergency Response chassis cabs built between August 7, 2012 and June 6, 2013.

Please contact me with any questions as it relates to this matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley D. Chestnut', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley D. Chestnut  
Lead, Compliance



Spartan Motors, Inc.  
1541 Reynolds Road  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
P: 517.543.6400 ext. 3275  
M: 517.231.0712  
E: [Wes.Chestnut@spartanmotors.com](mailto:Wes.Chestnut@spartanmotors.com)  
W: [www.spartanmotors.com](http://www.spartanmotors.com)



**Defect Information Report**

13014

**573.6(c)(1):** Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.  
1541 Reynolds Road  
Charlotte, MI 48813

**573.6(c)(2):** Emergency Response chassis cabs affected by this recall are equipped with a Restraints Control Module (RCM) supplied by Takata Protection Systems, which controls air bag deployments of the Spartan APS. Other product models are not equipped with this system and therefore not subject to this recall.

<b>Make</b>	Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.
<b>Models</b>	Metro Star and Gladiator
<b>Model Years</b>	2013
<b>Vehicle Type</b>	Emergency Response chassis cab
<b>Weight Range (GVWR)</b>	42000 lbs to 68000 lbs
<b>VDM Range</b>	8/7/2012 through 6/6/2013

Table 1

Takata's address and phone number are as follows:

Takata Protection Systems, Inc.  
1371 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite #3  
Pompano Beach, FL 33069  
Phone: 954-784-3178

**573.6(c)(3)** The total number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is shown in **Table 2**.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Model Year</b>	<b>Number Involved</b>
Gladiator	2013	39
Metro Star	2013	31
<b>Total</b>		70

Table 2

**573.6(c)(4)** The percentage of the vehicles produced between the dates of manufacturing shown in **Table 2** that contain the defect is unknown.



- 573.6(c)(5)** The restraints control module for the APS in the subject vehicles is manufactured with firing loop integrated circuits that are susceptible to damage when exposed to high and fast electrical noise. If this occurs, the air bag or seat belt pretensioner could inadvertently deploy without warning. While there have been no field incidents or reports of such, an inadvertent air bag deployment, under certain circumstances, could result in minor injury and increase the risk of a vehicle crash.
- 573.6(c)(6)** **May 2, 2013** - an inadvertent air bag deployment occurred during normal manufacturing operations. Spartan Chassis and Takata immediately begin investigation of the issue.
- May 3, 2013** - a second inadvertent seat belt prestensioner deployment occurred during normal manufacturing operations.
- May 4, 2013 - May 7, 2013** - Investigation indicates a high and fast transient (electrical noise) may have caused damage to the firing loop integrated circuits based on a simulation performed in a lab environment.
- May 8, 2013 - June 14, 2013** - Continued investigation to identify other potential causes for the inadvertent deployment, developed proposed remedy, and performed further testing confirming the simulation and the affects of the proposed remedy.
- June 18, 2013** - Investigation into the current matter concludes. Proposal is made by the investigating team to conduct a voluntary recall for the affected vehicles.
- June 19, 2013** - Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. determines a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in the affected vehicles.
- 573.6(c)(8)** A transient suppression device, that will aid in reducing high and fast electrical noise, will be added to the harness for the restraints control module. This will be done by Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc. technicians at no charge. This is expected to begin late by mid-July 2013.

**Final Stage Manufacturer Information**

Information below indicates the final stage manufacturers that have received a chassis cab affected by this recall.

<b>Final Stage Manufacturer</b>	<b>Qty</b>
<b>4 Guys, Inc.</b> 230 Industrial Park Rd. Meyersdale, PA 15552 Phone: (814) 634-8373 Contact: Mark Albright	3
<b>Custom Fire Apparatus, Inc.</b> 509 68 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Osceola, WI 54020 Phone: 800-443-8851 Contact: Jim Kirvida	5
<b>Emergency Vehicles, Inc.</b> PO Box 12173 Lake Park, FL 33403 Phone: 561-848-6652 Contact: Mike Cox	1
<b>Hi Tech</b> 444 West Gregor Oakdale, CA 95361 Phone: 209-847-3042 Contact: Dan Marchione	2
<b>Precision Fire Apparatus</b> 524 South Business Hwy 5 Camdenton, MO. 65020 Phone: 573-346-8387 Contact: Brad Johnston	1
<b>Marion Body Works, Inc.</b> 211 W. Ramsdell Street P.O. Box 500 Marion, WI 54950 Phone: 715-754-5261 Contact: Curt Ignacio	1

**Final Stage Manufacturer Information (continued)**

Information below indicates the final stage manufacturers that have received a chassis cab affected by this recall.

Final Stage Manufacturer	Qty
<b>Rosenbauer</b> Box 57 100 3rd St Lyons, SD 57041 Phone: 605-543-5591 Contact: Paul Hentges	2
<b>Smeal Fire Apparatus Co.</b> P.O. Box 8 610 West 4th Street Snyder, Nebraska 68664 Phone: 402-568-2224 Contact: Jeff Hunke	7
<b>Spartan ERV</b> 907 7th Avenue North Brandon, SD 57005 Phone: 605-582-4000 Contact: Wesley D. Chestnut	37
<b>Spartan Motors Chassis, Inc.</b> 1541 Reynolds Road Charlotte, MI 48813	2
<b>Spencer Manufacturing</b> 165 Veterans Blvd South Haven, MI 49090 Phone: 269-637-8721 Contact: Gordie Nienhuis	1
<b>Toyne, Inc.</b> 104 Granite Ave. Breda, Iowa 51436-0010 Phone: 712-673-2328 Contact: Mike Schwabe	6



**Final Stage Manufacturer Information (continued)**

Information below indicates the final stage manufacturers that have received a chassis cab affected by this recall.

Final Stage Manufacturer	Qty
<b>US Tanker</b> 1827 Hobbs Drive Delavan, WI 53115 Phone: 262-763-6220 Contact: Tim Bendle	1
<b>W S Darley</b> 2000 Anson Drive Melrose Park, IL 60160 Phone: 715-754-2937 Contact: Mike Daley	1