



Mr. Peter Kivett  
Office of Defects Investigations  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 30, 2013

Dear Mr. Kivett,

Please find below and attached our response to your request for information regarding PE13-008. Enclosed is a CD which contains data detailing our production, complaint and warranty information regarding the subject vehicle. Please note that the production data is sorted by DOB (date of build). All vehicles built after 6/28/2012 were produced with an exhaust extension downturn and a warning sticker in the compartment per Manning bulletin MEBULL0121 (attachment 1).

Attachment 2 is our warranty claim file on the subject vehicle.

Attachment 3 is the e-mail with details regarding the details of the vehicle. Please note on page 8 where there is mention of the contents of the rear compartment. It is our understanding that fusees are similar to road flares and were probably the source of ignition.

Attachment 4 shows the standard warning label installed in utility body compartment. This sticker is installed by the body manufacturer. Manning is installing an additional warning sticker (attachment 1) in the rear compartment over the exhaust pipe.

Attachment 5 is a report done for the Forest Service that compares temperature in and outside the rear compartment with and without the tailpipe downturn installed.

Our GSA sales team has worked closely with John McDonald to address customer concerns in the field. Through Mr. McDonald, Manning has provided retrofit kits to those customers who have requested them.

We appreciate all of your time and direction you have provided to us through this process and please give me a call if you need further information.

Sincerely

Larry

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Westhusing".

Larry Westhusing  
Manning Equipment LLC  
12000 Westport Road  
Louisville, Ky 40245  
1-800-876-8768  
1-502-426-5210

ATTACHMENT

1



*Manning Equipment, LLC*



## **BULLETIN**

Bulletin: MEBULL0121

July 18, 2012

Page 1 of 2

**To: Tom Wernert, Jeff Lamphear, John Mikan, All Sales, and Shop Installers**

**CC: Larry Westhusing, Mark Peyton, Mike Stich**

**Subject: Exhaust Extension and Decal**

**Models Affected: F350-550 Ford Super Duty Chassis Cab DRW Gas Engine with Service Body Applications.**

**Change Control Reference Number: CRF-1038**

**Issue:**

In review of this application we are finding that the exhaust spray on some of these vehicles was discoloring paint and/or primer in the lower floor area of the rear compartment. Also in some cases was damaging the plastic drain plugs in these compartment floors.

**Purpose:**

Effective immediately all Ford F350-550 Super Duty Chassis Cab DRW Gas Engines with Service Body Applications will require the installation of exhaust extension #K3512EXA. Attach to end of OEM exhaust tail pipe using #RB35ZN 3.5" U-bolt clamp. The installation of this extension is to extend and redirect the exhaust spray down and away from service body compartment floor. Install Danger Decal #ME32070312SBDL to upper right hand corner inside compartment door above rear exhaust pipe and extension.

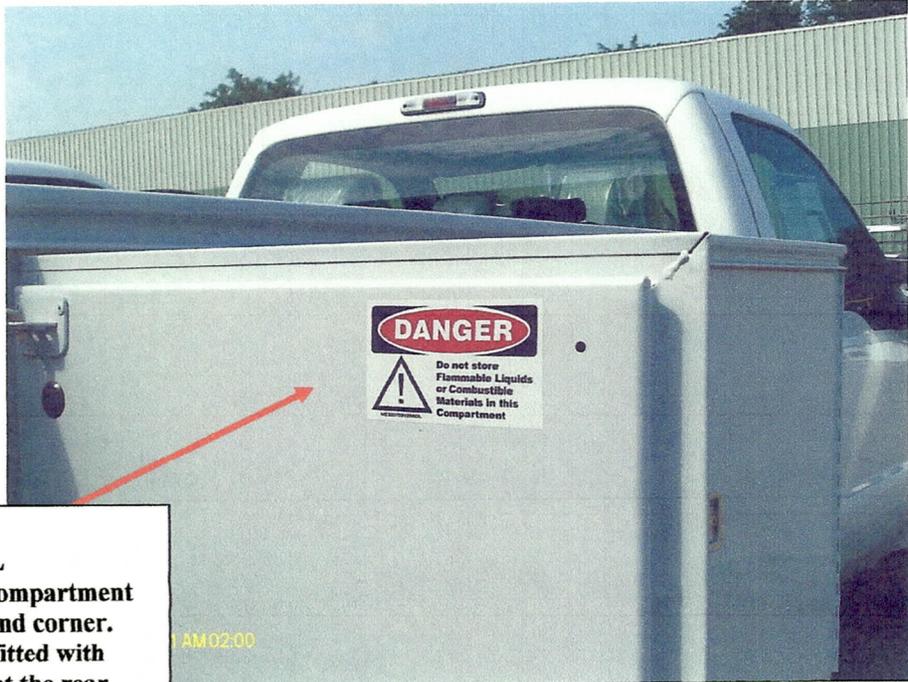
Regards,

Danny Underwood  
Quality Control Manager  
Manning Equipment, LLC



**#RB35ZN 3.5" U-Bolt Clamp**

**#K3512EXA 3.5" x 12" Exhaust Extension**



**Danger Decal**  
**#ME32070312SBDL**  
**Install Inside rear compartment door upper right hand corner.**  
**Note: If body is up fitted with two compartments at the rear, decal must be installed in the compartment closest to the truck exhaust pipe.**

**Manning Equipment, LLC.**  
Warranty Claim Form

MEWCF2005

Division of Claim: (check one)		Date:	7/10/2012
M/E (GSA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RPN NO:	FR371
M/E (Louisville)		Inv/Ord No.	161204831
M/E (Texas)		Date Out:	4/27/2012
		In Service Date:	

Dealer:	Northside Ford	Contact Name:	Don Cote
Customer:		Contact Name:	
Phone Number:		Fax Number:	
		Email:	

Chassis: Make:	Ford	Model:	W3H	S/N:		Color:	Z1
----------------	------	--------	-----	------	--	--------	----

GVWR:	Fuel:	Brakes:	Transmission:
13000 lbs.	Gas: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diesel:	Hyd: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air:	Auto: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manual:

Equipment Installed:	Description:	Service Body
Mfg: Knapheide	Model No:	Serial No:

## Description of Claim:

Right rear compartment fire due to road flares catching fire and burning and smoking body beyond repair. Road flares should have not been stored in compartment above exhaust.

## Description of Repairs:

Ordered new body from Knapheide and drop shipped to HK for body swap.  
Install Manning furnished exhaust ext/turn down with clamp.  
Install additional decal in right rear compartment above exhaust.

Tread Reportable: Yes:  NO:  (If Yes) Code No: 23

Repair Facility:	Invoice No:	7122	Contact:	Dan Matuszak
Company:	H&K Truck Equipment Service		Email:	dan@hktruckequipment.com
Address:	1103 South 700 West		Phone:	801-886-3000
City:	Salt Lake City	State: UT	Fax:	801-908-7236
			Zip Code:	84104

Qty:	Description:	\$ Amount:
	Labor charge to remove and re-install new body furnished by Manning Equip.	

Labor:	Total Parts: \$
Qty: 1 Rate @:	Total Labor: \$ 1,650.00
	Total Repair: \$ 1,650.00

PAID!!!!!!!!!! Larry's Master Card!!!!!!!!!!

Authorized By:	Date:
Q/C Manager: Danny Underwood	Date: 12/17/2012
Valid Claim: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invalid Claim: <input type="checkbox"/>	If Valid:/Authorization No: MEWC3307L
If Invalid/Reason:	

Northside Ford

KJR Truck Services, LLC  
 dba H&K Truck Equipment & Service  
 1103 South 700 West  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84104

# Invoice

Date	Invoice No.
12/14/2012	7122

**PAID**  
**12/17/2012**

<b>Bill To</b> Manning Truck Equipment P.O. Box 23229 Louisville, KY 40223 800-876-8768	<b>Ship To</b>  KJR TRUCK SERVICES LLC 1103 S 700 W SALT LAKE CIT, UT 84104
---	---

12/17/2012 13:07:30  
 Merchant ID: 000000002449603  
 Terminal ID: 03642764  
 329258512998

S.O. No.	P.O. No.	Terms	Due Date
			12/14/12

CREDIT CARD

MC SALE

CARD = TOKEN XXXXXXXXXXXX2742  
 INVOICE 0001  
 Batch #: 000136  
 Approval Code: 019509  
 Entry Method: Manual  
 Mode: Online  
 Tax Amount: 50.00  
 Cust Code:  
 Card Code: M

SALE AMOUNT \$1650.00

I agree to pay above total amount  
 according to card issuer's agreement  
 (Merchant agreement if Credit Voucher)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

MERCHANT COPY

Item	Description
Start Order Truck	Unit # 2675 Ford F-350 2012  Chassis Vin # CEB87484 Chassis License Plate# A366489 Knapheide Body Serial # 0243592  Remove Shell From Body Remove Service Body Install Supplied LED STT Light Kit Installed Knapheide Supplied Service Body Reinstall Existing Bumper and Hitch Reinstall Top Shell Paint Touch Up Misc Shop Supplies Install Exhaust Extension As Per Picture Install Warning Decal in Upper Door Panel in Curbside Rear Vertical Compartment Door.

Unit No.

Item	Amount
1.650.00	1.650.00

Phone #	(801) 886-3000	Fax #	(801) 908-7236
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<b>Subtotal</b>	\$1,650.00
<b>Sales Tax (0.0%)</b>	\$0.00
<b>Payments/Credits</b>	\$-1,650.00
<b>Total</b>	\$1,650.00
<b>Balance Due</b>	\$0.00

Invoice #: 141301282  
Date:

MANNING EQUIPMENT INC.

Page 1

12000 WESTPORT RD, LOUISVILLE, KY 40223  
DIRECT ALL INQUIRES TO: 502-426-5210 FAX: 502-426-5213

MAIL PAYMENT TO: DEPT 5058, PO BOX 740041, LOUISVILLE, KY 40201-7441

Bill to: 1  
WARRANTY

Sls Rep: HOUSE  
Ord Tkr: DEU  
Ship to: KJR TRUCK SERVICES, L.L.C. H  
1103 S. 700 W.  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84104

Cust PO#: 111205351  
Remark: REPLACEMENT BODY JOB 161204831

Terms: NETO  
Ship Via:

Part number	Description Extended description	Ship Qty B/O Qty	UOM	Price	Extended
GSA7108D54J-1	SERVICE BDY,KNAP,PAINT FORD Z1 LIGHT & FUEL HOLES	1.00 0.00	EA		
S/N: 272851					
GSA21102876	LIGHT KIT,UPGARDE,KNAP FOR DUAL WHEEL BODIES	1.00 0.00	EA		
GSA26049510	SPARE TIRE RETAINER,KNAP	1.00 0.00	EA		
GSA26103531	WIRE HARNESS ADAPTER,KNAP,99+ FORD CAB/CHASSIS	1.00 0.00	EA		
GSA26205237	LIGHT KIT,LED,RECESSED,KNAP STOP,TAIL & TUR	1.00 0.00	EA		
GSA26205351	RESISTOR KIT,KNAP LED LIGHTS	1.00 0.00	EA		
GSA21105390	SPRING MOUNT,KNAP,W/ADAPT	1.00 0.00	EA		

REPLACEMENT BODY ORDERED AND DROP SHIPPED TO H&K TRUCK EQUIPMENT  
SALT LAKE CITY UTAH 84104.  
NEW BODY REPLACES OLD BODY ON JOB NUMBER 161204831 BODY S/N 243592

NEW BODY REFERENCE KNAPHEIDE INVOICE 865931 BODY S/N 272851  
NOTE: ITEMS NOT ON THIS SALES ORDER  
PAINTWHITEBODYBUMPER \$439.00  
FREIGHT \$ 1,570.00 FROM KNAP TO UTAH

Subtotal	0.01
Freight	0.01
Sales Tax	0.01
Special Chgs	0.01
Order Total	0.01
Amt Paid	0.0
AMOUNT DUE	0.0

A finance charge of 1.5% per month will be added to all invoices not paid within terms.

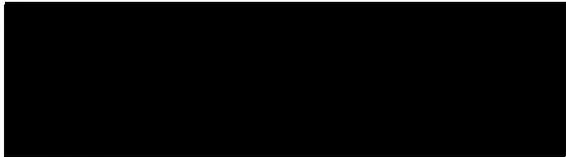
PURCHASE ORDER: 111205351

MANNING EQUIPMENT, INC.  
12000 WESTPORT ROAD  
LOUISVILLE KY 40223  
(502) 426-5210  
FAX (502) 426-5213

Date Ordered: 080612  
PAGE: 1

Supplier: 10821

Bill to:



Ship to: VIA:



PHONE:  
FAX:



Comments: REPLACEMENT FOR W/O 1

Part Number	Description	Date Needed	Ordered	UOM	Unit Cost	Ext. Cost
GSA7108D54J-1	SERVICE BDY,KNAP,PAINT FORD Z1 LIGHT & FUEL HOLES		1.00	EA	2,148.0000	2,148.00
GSA21102876	LIGHT KIT,UPGARDE,KNAP FOR DUAL WHEEL BODIES		1.00	EA	45.0000	45.00
GSA26049510	SPARE TIRE RETAINER,KNAP		1.00	EA	16.0000	16.00
GSA26103531	WIRE HARNESS ADAPTER,KNAP,99+ FORD CAB/CHASSIS		1.00	EA	24.0000	24.00
GSA26205237	LIGHT KIT,LED,RECESSED,KNAP STOP,TAIL & TUR		1.00	EA	117.0000	117.00
GSA26205351	RESISTOR KIT,KNAP LED LIGHTS		1.00	EA	24.0000	24.00
PAINTWHITEBODYBUMPER	KNAPHEIDE PAINT 6108054J PAINT BODY/BUMPER FORD WHITE		1.00	EA	439.0000	439.00
GSA21105390	SPRING MOUNT,KNAP,W/ADAPT		1.00	EA	45.0000	45.00

THIS IS A REPLACEMENT BODY FOR W/O 161201831

PLEASE DROP SHIP TO:

H&K TRUCK EQUIPMENT  
1103 SOUTH 700 WEST  
SALT LAKE CITY,UT 84104  
ATTN: DAN MATUSZAK  
801-886-3000 EXT. 1

*8-22-12*  
*Per MR B. ETA 11-11-12*

2,858.00

MANNING EQUIPMENT, INC.

Manning Equipment, Inc. promotes affirmative action and prohibits discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, national origin sex or age, disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era status and physical or mental handicap. Supplier's acceptance of this purchase order shall constitute certification of supplier's compliance with the equal opportunity and affirmative action clauses as outlined in 41 CFR 60-1.4(a)(1-7).

Authorized Signature

MYVE DAVE

Invoice # 141702083

MANNING EQUIPMENT INC.

Page 1

Date 06/06/12

12000 WESTPORT RD. LOUISVILLE, KY 40223

DIRECT ALL INQUIRES TO: 502-426-5210 FAX: 502-426-5213

MAIL PAYMENT DIRECTLY TO: DEPARTMENT 94427, LOUISVILLE, KY 40294-4427

Bill to: WARRANT

Dist. to: MANNING EQUIPMENT  
1105 SOUTH 700 WEST

SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84104

Customer: -WARRANTY/REWORK

Remarks: ATTN: DAN RATHORAP

Ship Via: GROUND

Part number	Description Extended description	Ship Qty B/O Qty	UOM
K3512EXA	EXHAUST EXTENSION 12"X3.5" FOR DRW SERVICE BODIES	1.00 0.00	EA
RB35ZN	EXHAUST CLAMP 3.5" FOR DRW SERVICE BODIES	1.00 0.00	EA
MMM	MISC MOUNTING MATERIALS #ME32070312SBDL DECAL	1.00 0.00	EA

MANNING FURNISHED PARTS TO RE-DIRECT EXHAUST ON GSA VEHICLE  
FORD W3H V.I.N. CE887484.

I certify that the goods referenced in this invoice comply with the origin requirements specified for these goods in the North American Free Trade Agreement, and that further processing or assembly outside the territories of the parties has not occurred subsequent to processing or assembly in the NAFTA region.

**Underwood**

---

**From:** Underwood [underwood@truckequip.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2012 1:37 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Forest Service Unit

Nick,

Can you submit me an estimate and/or a hard copy of our discussion with Manning furnishing a replacement service body painted to match cab and have it drop shipped to your facility. Also can you add the wrecker bill and also see if you can help with that cost any at all. I am checking with the body company and make sure that I can get it drop shipped at your facility.... I am assuming that you have a lift to unload body from trailer? And also I need to know if rear bumper, receiver hitch, and plug are all okay? Also in reference to exhaust, we have been working with the Government and the approve fix is to add a 12" exhaust extension that redirects truck exhaust downward and adding a danger decal in that compartment above the exhaust pipe. I will forward these item(s) (Exhaust extension, clamp, & decal) if all goes to plan.  
Thanks for your help in this matter!

Regards,

*Danny Underwood*  
Quality Control Manager  
Manning Equipment,LLC  
Office: 502-426-5210 ext. 239  
Toll Free: 800-876-8768 ext. 239  
Fax: 502-426-5213  
[underwood@truckequip.com](mailto:underwood@truckequip.com)

ATTACHMENT 3

**Larry Westhusing**

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**From:** Underwood [underwood@truckequip.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 09, 2013 3:47 PM  
**To:** westhusing@truckequip.com; Mark Peyton  
**Subject:** FW: Ford F350 - Case # FR371,  
**Attachments:** f350 fire.JPG; 2012 Ford F350b.JPG; 2012 Ford F350.JPG; Picture 005.jpg; Picture 007.jpg; Picture 008.jpg; \_Certification\_.htm; \_Certification\_.htm

Please see last or first email below from Carol Winter, I have highlights items stored in the compartment.



Quality Control  
**Manning Equipment, LLC**  
**Office: 502-426-5210 ext. 239**  
Toll Free: 800-876-8768 ext. 239  
Fax: 502-426-5213  
[underwood@truckequip.com](mailto:underwood@truckequip.com)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mark Peyton [mailto:peyton@truckequip.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** 'Mike Stich'; 'Larry Westhusing'; 'Danny Underwood'; wernert@truckequip.com; 'Jeff Lamphear'  
**Subject:** FW: Ford F350 - Case # FR371,

This truck is on job 161201831 Inspected 4/25/2012.

Mark Peyton  
VP Sales  
Manning Equipment LLC  
Office: 800-876-8768  
Cell: 502-649-0627



The information contained in this email and any attachments is confidential and may be subject to copyright or other intellectual property protection. If you are not the intended recipient, you are not authorized to use or disclose this information, and we request that you notify us by reply mail or telephone and delete the original message from your mail system.

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**From:** John McDonald (QMDAA) [mailto:jmcdonald@gsa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 26, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** Don Cote; Mark Peyton  
**Cc:** Daniel Buckingham; Denise Banks  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ford F350 - Case # FR371,

We will need to look in to this tomorrow when I am at Manning

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bryan Keith (QMAA)** <[bryan.keith@gsa.gov](mailto:bryan.keith@gsa.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 26, 2012 at 3:06 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Ford F350 - Case # FR371,  
To: "Denise Banks (QMD)" <[denise.banks@gsa.gov](mailto:denise.banks@gsa.gov)>, "Leonard Fedoruk (QMAA)" <[leonard.fedoruk@gsa.gov](mailto:leonard.fedoruk@gsa.gov)>, "Dallas Brewer (QMAA)" <[dallas.brewer@gsa.gov](mailto:dallas.brewer@gsa.gov)>, "Heidi McFall (QMAA)" <[heidi.mcfall@gsa.gov](mailto:heidi.mcfall@gsa.gov)>, "John McDonald (QMDAA)" <[jmcdonald@gsa.gov](mailto:jmcdonald@gsa.gov)>

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Baker, Connie S -FS** <[conniesbaker@fs.fed.us](mailto:conniesbaker@fs.fed.us)>  
Date: Tue, Jun 26, 2012 at 1:33 PM  
Subject: Ford F350 - Case # FR371,  
To: "Bryan Keith (QMAA)" <[bryan.keith@gsa.gov](mailto:bryan.keith@gsa.gov)>, "Don Cote ([dcote@nsford.com](mailto:dcote@nsford.com))" <[dcote@nsford.com](mailto:dcote@nsford.com)>  
Cc: "Hutchins, Rebecca A -FS" <[rhutchins@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhutchins@fs.fed.us)>, "Hanks Nelson, Shonni -FS" <[shanksnelson@fs.fed.us](mailto:shanksnelson@fs.fed.us)>

Bryan and Don,

Please see the attached picture titled F350 fire, and the trail of emails below from our Forest Fleet Manager. This is a 2012 F350 with a gas engine. It appears this vehicle caught fire in the right rear compartment due to the exhaust being too close to the underside of the utility body. The other pictures are of an identical vehicle received that shows the proximity of the tailpipe to the underside of the utility body as well as evidence of a melted plug and its location to the exhaust/tailpipe, see photos #5, 7 and 8.

I have compiled a list of F350, F450 and F550's we ordered through Autochoice for 2012 vehicles that possibly could have the same issues, however some of them were cab/chassis that had bodies installed after the fact.

Please contact me as soon as possible so we can begin getting work accomplished under warranty to help prevent future problems such as these.

Agency	CaseNo	Requisition	Std	Model
--------	--------	-------------	-----	-------

Order No		Number	Item	
R06-01-1342-12	0FQ156	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-01-1343-12	0FQ157	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-01-1344-12	0FQ158	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-02-1345-12	0FQ145	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-10-1792-12	0FQ147	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-10-1802-12	0FQ146	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-10-1803-12	0FQ163	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-10-2826-12	0FQ940	1204H113	88C	F350
R06-14-1875-12	0FQ164	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-14-1876-12	0FQ148	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-14-1877-12	0FQ149	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-14-1878-12	0FQ150	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-14-1879-12	0FQ151	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-14-1880-12	0FQ152	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-16-1914-12	0FQ161	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-16-1932-12	0FQ162	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-16-1933-12	0FQ159	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-16-1934-12	0FQ160	1204H112	79J	F550
R06-17-1346-12	0FQ153	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-17-1347-12	0FQ154	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-17-1997-12	0FQ155	1204H112	79G	F550
R06-01-2794-12	0FR134	1204H120	49E	F350
R06-15-2407-12	0FR236	1204H120	79D	F450
R06-15-2406-12	0FR237	1204H120	79D	F450
R06-05-2217-12	0FR326	1204H120	88C	F350

R06-17-2675-12	0FR371	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
Vehicle which caught fire					
R06-17-2843-12	0FR382	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-17-2681-12	0FR383	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-17-2641-12	0FR385	1204H12	[REDACTED]	89A	F350
R06-17-2679-12	0FR386	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-17-2711-12	0FR387	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-17-2640-12	0FR396	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-17-2716-12	0FR397	1204H12	[REDACTED]	149	F350
R06-12-2391-12	0FS592	1204H12	[REDACTED]	84B	F450

Becky, since you are currently at FedFleet, will you please try to make contact with Don Cote of Northside Ford and bring this subject to his attention, if he hasn't yet seen his email.

We will work through the streamlined warranty process that GSA sent out to all of us on May 30, 2012, but I feel that Northside Ford should be aware and provide assistance if at all possible.

*Thank you,*

*Connie*

Connie S. Baker

Deputy R6 & R10 Fleet Manager

360-891-5232 (office)

360-891-5235 (fax)

conniesbaker@fs.fed.us

It is every new F350 with a utility bed. We have checked others and are already seeing blistering and they have not even been driven out of the county yet. So every one that was produced in 2012.

Also, this means they all have to be red tagged so we are in a desperate need now. Allen is taking one to a local exhaust business this morning to confirm the fix will work or if there is a better one. We have one in Colorado now that has to be red tagged so we need to get the fix going now.

If we can get the fix confirmed, is there any reason we can't go ahead and get it done and then fight with the company?

I will ask that a picture is taken of not the burned one but of one we have not put in service yet to show the problem. I will also see if I can get a picture of the blistering that is already taken place on the others that we had already put in service.

Oh also, I sent my messages out to the region but might be a good idea if it is sent out from RO Fleet to the Forests to make sure and look at theirs and red tag until fixed.

Carol Winter

Forest Fleet Manager

Okanogan Wenatchee NF

Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF

Office: 509-664-9225

Cell: 509-670-0843

Fax: 509-664-9288

**From:** Baker, Connie S -FS  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 7:03 PM  
**To:** Hanks Nelson, Shonni -FS; Winter, Carol L -FS  
**Cc:** Baker, Connie S -FS  
**Subject:** RE: 2012 F350's w/Utility Bed SHARE FAR AND WIDE

Yes, I will help.. Carol please send me the vehicle number/RPN# so I can submit to GSA and Ford.

*Thank you,*

*Connie*

Connie S. Baker

Deputy R6 & R10 Fleet Manager

[360-891-5232](tel:360-891-5232) (office)

[360-891-5235](tel:360-891-5235) (fax)

[conniesbaker@fs.fed.us](mailto:conniesbaker@fs.fed.us)

**From:** Hanks Nelson, Shonni -FS  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 4:16 PM  
**To:** Winter, Carol L -FS; Baker, Connie S -FS  
**Subject:** RE: 2012 F350's w/Utility Bed SHARE FAR AND WIDE

It should be the subcontractor.

Connie will help you.

Shonni

**From:** Winter, Carol L -FS  
**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 3:21 PM  
**To:** Baker, Connie S -FS; Hanks Nelson, Shonni -FS  
**Subject:** FW: 2012 F350's w/Utility Bed SHARE FAR AND WIDE  
**Importance:** High

Ford dealership said it is not a warranty issue but I say that it should be. Ford sub-contracts to the vendors who put the utility bed's on the chassis. So shouldn't Ford be responsible and then they go after their sub-contractor?

Carol Winter

Forest Fleet Manager

Okanogan Wenatchee NF

Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF

Office: [509-664-9225](tel:509-664-9225)

Cell: [509-670-0843](tel:509-670-0843)

Fax: [509-664-9288](tel:509-664-9288)

**From:** Winter, Carol L -FS

**Sent:** Monday, June 25, 2012 2:58 PM

**To:** FS-pdl r6 r10 fleet managers; Hanks Nelson, Shonni -FS; Baker, Connie S -FS;

**Subject:** 2012 F350's w/Utility Bed SHARE FAR AND WIDE

**Importance:** High

This morning we had a fire crew in a new 2012 Ford F350 traveling to a fire in Utah. While in route the utility box caught on fire. The vehicle was towed to the nearest Ford dealership in Ogden, Utah. The service department said the cause was from the exhaust pipe too close to the box and not extended out enough. The compartment above the tail pipe contained chock blocks, chains and fusees.

As it turned out there was nothing but body damage but needless to say this could have been a lot worse. We received several F350's with utility beds on this year's order and from what we can tell they are all the same way.

It appears that the fix would be to have the tail pipe extended and dropped down an inch or so. Also the crews need to remove any flammables from the compartment above the tail pipe.

**GO OUT AND CHECK YOUR NEW FORD F350'S WITH UTILITY.**

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Allen Nunn in our automotive shop or any of the rest of us in fleet.

Thanks, Carol

**Carol Winter**

**Forest Fleet Manager**

**Okanogan Wenatchee NF**

**Mt Baker Snoqualmie NF**

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Strong and bitter words indicate a weak cause.

 **WARNING**



Do not store flammable materials such as gasoline, acetylene, propane or cleaning fluids in enclosed cargo area of Knap Kap body. Sparks may occur and cause an explosion which could result in death or severe injury.



Do not allow people to ride or work in enclosed cargo area of Knap Kap body. Poisonous carbon monoxide gas may leak into cargo area and cause death or severe injury.

12-21-101-2



Forest  
Service

San Dimas Technology  
and Development Center

444 East Bonita Avenue  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909) 599-1267

File Code: 7120

Date: February 22, 2013

Route To:

Subject: Utility Body F350 Temperature Evaluation

To: National Fleet Manager

Testing was recently performed on a 2012 Ford F350 utility body truck. The vehicle experienced a fire in the lower rear passenger side compartment in 2012. At the time of the incident the cause of the fire was attributed to combustible material stored in the compartment immediately above the exhaust.

As a result of this incident, Equipment Alert USFS-EA-2012-01 was issued on July 31, 2012 (attached). The utility body was replaced and the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) performed temperature testing on the vehicle on February 5 and 6, 2013. The results of these tests confirm the required and recommended actions in the equipment alert as follows:

- Move flammable liquids (e.g. fuel) and combustible materials (e.g. fusees) to a vented compartment that is not located immediately above the exhaust system. (required)
- Add a permanent warning label to the lower rear passenger side compartment (see equipment alert for specific decal requirements). (required)
- Depending on the location of the exhaust pipe in relation to the body, the exhaust gas might exit *below* the lower rear passenger side compartment. If so, the exhaust pipe should be extended so that the exhaust gas exits *beyond* the compartment to prevent heat damage to the body. (recommended)

The test results are enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Haston at (909) 599-1267 x294 or by email at [dhaston@fs.fed.us](mailto:dhaston@fs.fed.us).

JOHN D. FEHR  
Director, Technology and Development  
Program

Enclosures

cc: Leslie Anderson, Connie S Baker, Ralph H Gonzales, Shonni Hanks Nelson, David Haston, Trevor B Maynard, Carl E Schaefer



February 14, 2013

### **Test Summary**

Test Location: San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC)  
Date of Test: February 5 and 6, 2013  
Test Performed By: Trevor Maynard, Mechanical Engineer  
Carl Schaefer, Mechanical Engineering Technician  
John McDonald, GSA

### **Apparatus Information**

Year Make and Model: 2012 Ford F350  
Vehicle Type: Crew cab truck with utility body  
VIN: 1FD8W3H66CEB87484  
Fleet No. 2675  
Engine: Gas  
Drive: 4 X 4

### **Instrumentation**

Temperatures were measured using thermocouples (Type K, 24 gauge wire) affixed in 15 locations. 10 of the 15 thermocouples measured surface temperatures throughout the lower and upper compartments (interior and exterior). Two thermocouples measured exhaust system temperature (exhaust gas and pipe surface), two measured ambient temperature inside the lower and upper compartments, and one measured ambient temperature behind the truck body. Detailed thermocouple locations are shown in Table 1 and Figures 1–3. Temperature data were recorded at (5) second intervals using a Campbell Scientific CR1000 datalogger<sup>1</sup> and AM2T thermocouple multiplexer stored in the upper forward passenger side bin.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference herein to any specific commercial products, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, and shall not be used for advertising or product endorsement purposes.

Table 1 – Thermocouple locations

Thermocouple	Type	Section	Location
TC-01	K (24 gauge) 10' length	Underneath lower compartment	(Exterior) bottom panel -fwd D/S
TC-02			Top of exhaust pipe surface
TC-03			(Exterior) bottom panel-fwd P/S
TC-04			Inside exhaust pipe (exhaust gas temperature)
TC-05		Inside lower compartment	(Interior) D/S On wall
TC-06			(Interior) Fwd wall
TC-07			(Interior) Bottom-D/S (middle)
TC-08			(Interior) Bottom - P/S (middle)
TC-09			(Interior) Top (middle)
TC-10			(Interior) Bottom (middle)
TC-11			(Interior) On aft wall (middle)
TC-12			(Interior) Ambient
TC-13		Upper compartment	(Interior) Lower surface of upper compartment
TC-14			Ambient (outside, behind truck)
TC-15			(Interior) Ambient (upper compartment)

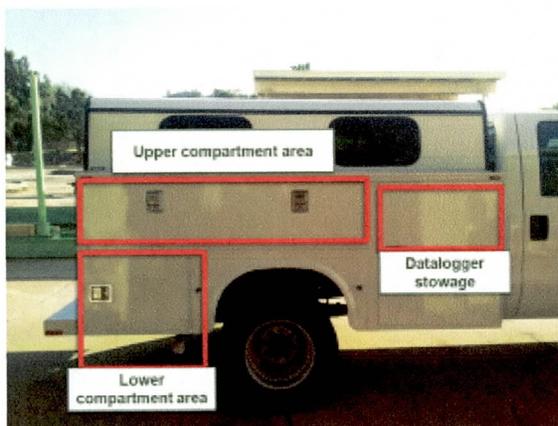


Figure 1 – Compartment layout thermocouple placement

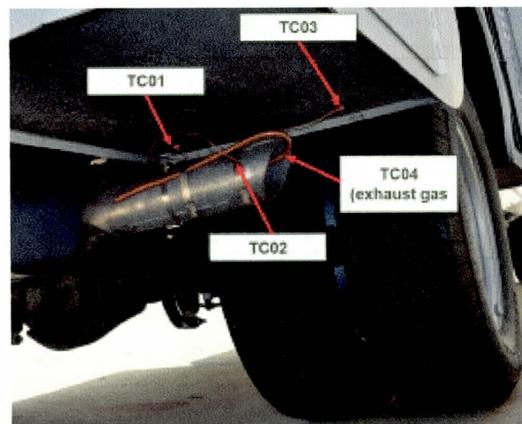
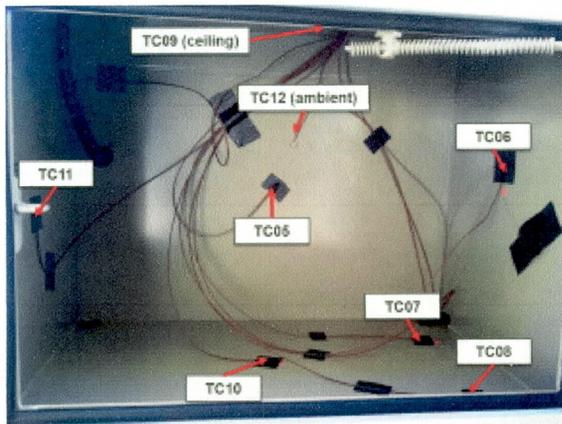


Figure 2 – Exhaust and underbody thermocouple placement



**Figure 3 – Lower compartment interior thermocouple placement.**

### **Test procedure**

A road test was performed for each exhaust configuration (aftermarket tip and OEM tip – Figure 4). Prior to each road test, the vehicle was started and allowed to warm up for approximately five minutes. The road test route (Figure 5) was 12.5 miles in length and included both highway and street driving. After the road test, the vehicle was allowed to idle for approximately ten minutes. Temperature data were collected throughout. Weather conditions for both tests were sunny with an air temperature of 55-65 °F.



**Figure 4 – Vehicle with aftermarket exhaust tip (left) and OEM exhaust (right).**



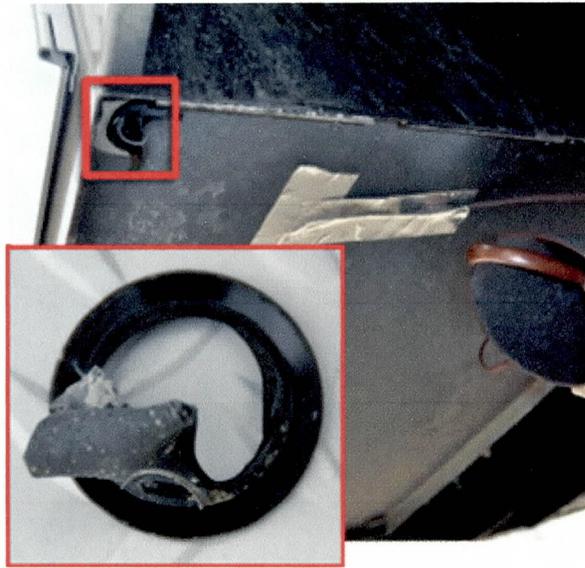


Figure 6 - Rubber plug melted during road test with OEM exhaust configuration (no exhaust tip).

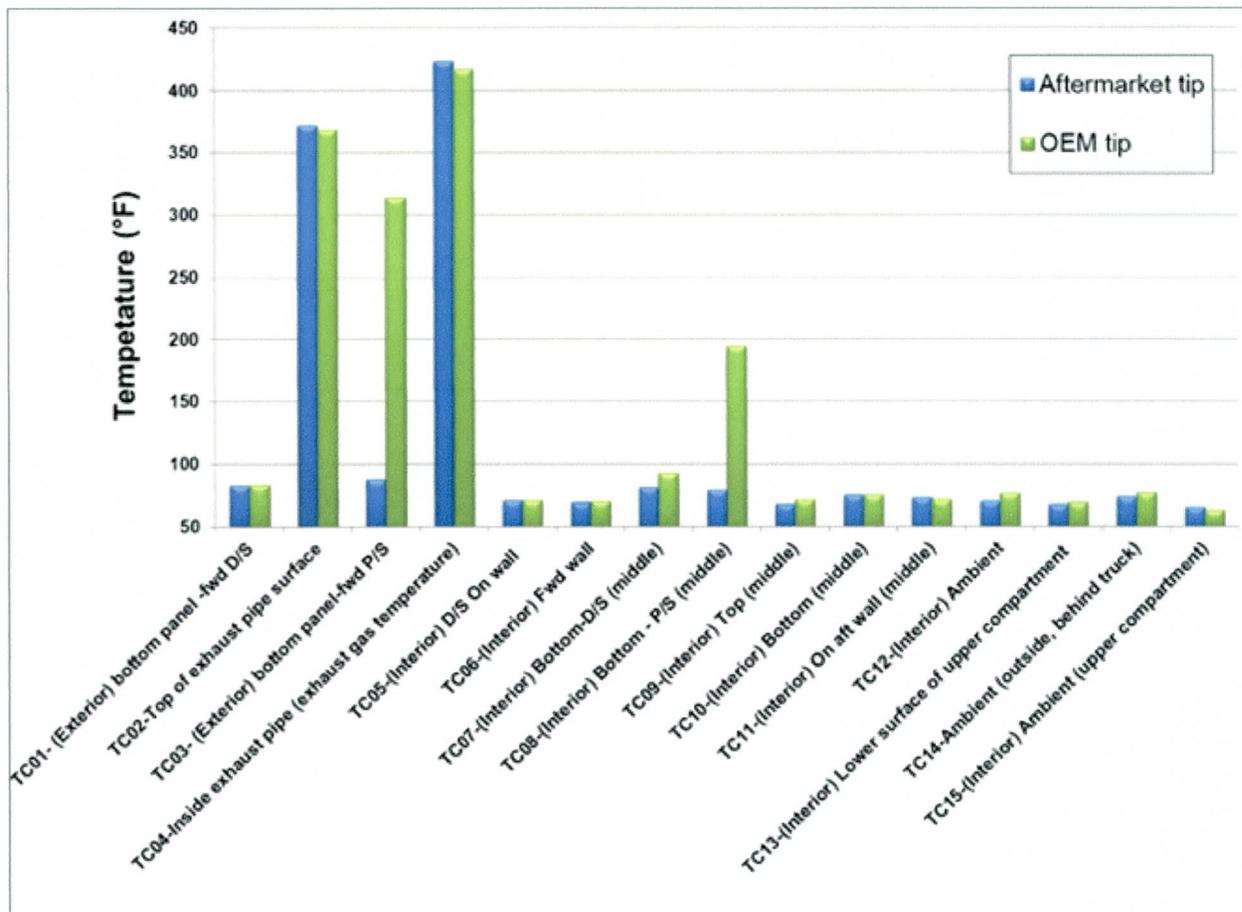


Figure 7 – Maximum temperature achieved during test for each thermocouple (both tests shown).