

HOUSING

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Observer

Ford Recalls Faulty Ignitions

Ford Motor company announced a recall that will affect 8.7 million cars and trucks equip with a defective ignition switch that can cause steering column fires, even when the vehicles are turned off. It is one of the largest volunteer recalls by a single automaker.

Ford faces growing litigation, adverse publicity and regulatory investigations that involves more than 23 million vehicles built between 1984 and 1993. The recall covers certain vehicles from 1988-1993 models.

Investigations uncovered complaints of 1,100 ignition-switch fires in the US and 900 in Canada. The fires involved vehicles that were parked had been shut off for hours. In some cases the fires damaged homes as well as the vehicles. Twenty-eight injuries have been attributed to the fires. The recall could cost

as much as \$200 million to Ford and its suppliers.

Terminals in the ignitions' switches are to close together which means they could short-circuit and start a fire. The switch in question manufactured by United technologies Automotive was redesigned in 1993 and is not used in any vehicles made since then. Ford said owners will be notified of the recall by mail and should arrange to have the switch replaced at no cost.

Owners should contact their Ford dealer if they want the switch replaced before they get the letter Ford said replacing the switch would usually cost about \$100 and take 30 minutes.

For questions about the recall call 1-800-FORD or to report an ignition fire or problem with a Ford not recalled call 1-800-424-9393.

Vehicles Recalled:

- 1988-92 Mustangs (some early 1993).
- Ford Thunderbirds and Mercury Cougars.
- Ford Tempos and Mercury Topazes.
- 1988-89 Ford Crown Victorias and Mercury Grand Marquis.
- 1988-90 Escorts.
- 1988-91 Lincoln Town Cars.
- 1988-91 Bronco Spots utility vehicles and F-series pickups.
- 1988 EXPs.

Free Workshops

Home gardeners can learn to prevent and control insects, weeds and diseases with a light, earth-friendly approach by attending a free Metro workshop during May or June.

Alternatives to pesticides workshops focus on good gardening techniques, preventing problems, reducing pesticide use, least-toxic controls and homemade remedies. To register for a workshop, call Metro Recycling Information, 234-3000k. Pre-registration is encouraged. Also available are free copies of "Common Sense Gardening," an illustrated booklet on alternatives to pesticides and common Northwest insects, weeds and diseases.

Workshops are scheduled for the following dates and locations during May and June:

- 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30, Tualatin-Tualatin City Hall, Council Chamber, 18880 SW Marinazzi
- 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, Gresham, Gresham City Hall, Council Chamber, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway

• 9:30-11 a.m. Saturday, June 15 - Oregon City, Oregon City Pool, 1211 Jackson St.

• 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18 - Southwest Portland, Mittleman Jewish Community Center, 6651 SW Capitol Highway

The workshops are sponsored by Metro and the city of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services. The goal of the program is to educate home gardeners about less toxic pest management in an effort to reduce the volume of pesticides entering the waste stream and regional waterways.

Metro, the agency responsible for solid waste disposal in the tri-county area, operates the region's household hazardous waste disposal facilities.

Pesticides are the most expensive, and among the most toxic, materials to dispose of safely.

The Bureau of Environmental Services provides Portland residents with water quality protection, sewage treatment, waste water

Tomato Growing Tips From OSU

Growing tomatoes has always been a challenge to many Oregon home gardeners.

Cool summers often mean slow ripening fruits, and when it first frosts of fall come, many home gardeners find themselves with an overabundance of green tomatoes.

To avoid this, make sure to get tomato starts in the ground between May 2 and mid-June, recommended Bill Mansour, Oregon State Univer-

sity vegetable crops specialist.

Some of Mansour's home garden tips on growing tomatoes:

- Plan only high quality semi-hardened transplants without blossoms. Pinch blossoms off transplants to avoid delayed flowering
- Prevent transplant shock by setting plants out in a protected area for a week before planting in final place.
- Thoroughly water plants 12 to 14 hours before transplanting to the

garden.

- Be careful about fertilizing young plants.
- Irrigate tomatoes to maintain a steady moisture content in the soil.
- Use black plastic or other heat transmitting ground mulches and/or row covers or tunnels if possible.
- Lengthen the tomato harvest season by gathering mature green tomatoes before the first frost. Store them at 50 degrees and ripen at 70 degrees.

• Plant tomato transplants about 1-2 feet apart in rows 3-5 feet apart. OSU Extension recommends early tomato varieties such as Early Girl, New Yorker, Pixie, Oregon Spring, Santiam and Siletz for most western Oregon areas. The recommend Celebrity Pik Red, Spring Set, Spring Giant and Willamette for mid-season plantings.

For more information call 541-737-3380.

New Washington Park Catalogue

A 50-page color catalogue documenting Tri-Met's Washington Park Fences Project was released Saturday, May 18, at the Froelick Adelhart Gallery, in Portland.

The fences project, co sponsored by Tri-Met and the Regional Arts and Culture Council, features 16 original artworks painted on 13,000 square feet of plywood fence surrounding the construction site of the future Washington Park light rail station. For most of the artists, the scale of the project was well beyond anything they had previously executed. They had to complete their pieces within two weeks, working outdoors and mixing their own colors.

The fences artists are featured in the May exhibition at Froelick Adelhart entitled "One Year Later:

Work by Washington Park Fences Project Artists." The show depicts how the experience of painting the large expanse of fence has affected their studio work since. The fence pieces, executed one year ago, range in size from 40 feet to 160 feet long.

Artists are featured in the May exhibition at Froelick Adelhart entitled "One Year Later: Work by Washington Park Fences Project Artists." The show depicts how the experience of painting the large expanse of fence has affected their studio work since. The fence pieces, executed one year ago, range in size from 40 feet to 160 feet long.

Artists are Rick Austin, Manda Beckett, Jim Blashfield, Michael Brophy, Rebecca Campbell, Judy Cooke, Kay French, Gregory Grenon, David Hapgood, Stephen

Hayes, Mary Josephson, Angela Medlin, William Park, Lucinda Parker, Laura Ross-Paul, Phil Sylvester and Margot Thompson.

The Washington Park Fences Project is on view through 1996 in the parking lot between the Metro Washington Park Zoo and the World Forestry Center. A walking guide is available on site.

The Fences Project is one of over 100 art elements contributed by over 45 artists to the Westside MAX project from downtown Portland to downtown Hillsboro. When the system opens in fall 1998, passengers will see a wide variety of artistic influence, ranging from brick pattering on maintenance buildings to a 21-foot-diameter concrete seat that replicates the mark of the tunnel boring machine.

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