

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles  
**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report**<sup>3</sup>

**On , August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Fontaine Modification decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exits in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.**

**Date this report was prepared: 8/31/10**

**Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable):**

- 1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164..**

*Fontaine Modification  
9827 Mt Holly Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28214*

**Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall. *Dan Jaynes Quality Director***

**Telephone Number: Fax No.: Name and Title of Person who prepared this report. *704-409-1613 (phone), 704-391-1671 (fax)***

**Signed:**

<sup>3</sup>Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

**I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall**

**2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:**

**Make(s): Model Years Involved: Model(s): Production Dates: Beginning: Ending: VIN Range:**  
**Beginning:** 4/15/09 **Ending:** 5/7/10 **Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:** *Freightliner Medium Duty M2 / with Fontaine Modified Dual Steering*

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:** *These Freightliner Medium Duty M2s have been modified by adding dual steering components by Fontaine Modification.*

**VIN Range: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vehicle Type:**  
**Make(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model Years Involved:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Model(s):**  
**Production Dates: Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bodystyle: Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Make(s): Model Years Involved: Model(s): Production Dates: Beginning: Ending: VIN Range:**  
**Beginning:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Vehicle Type: Bodystyle:**

**Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:**

**Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.**

*100% of Freightliner Medium Duty M2 trucks modified by Fontaine Modification, by adding dual steering components, that were converted at Fontaine Modification's Garland Texas facility between 4/15/09 until 5/7/10 are a part of this recall. The total number of affected trucks is 308.*

## II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

|   | Number of Vehicles |
|---|--------------------|
| Model Year Potentially Involved 2009 & 2010 | 308                |

**Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 308**

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 50%

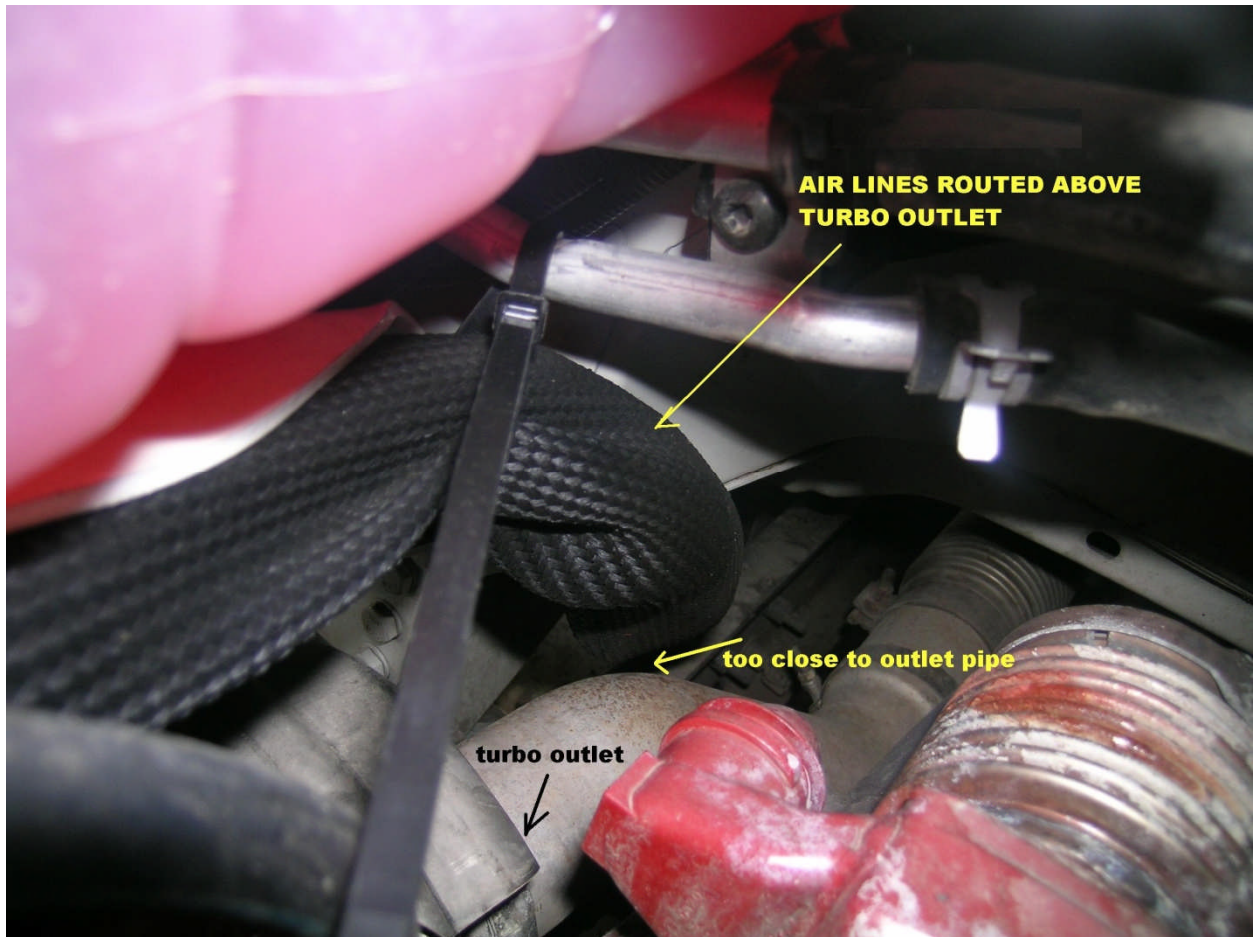
**Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:** *The modification process of converting from a single steer (one steering wheel) to a dual steer (2 steering wheels) on Freightliner Medium Duty M2s was moved from Fontaine's Charlotte, NC facility to Fontaine's Garland Texas facility in April of 2009. The routing of the air brake hoses from the OEM LH side brake valve to the Fontaine added RH side brake pedal may have been done improperly when assembly personnel changed. Reports of RH side lines melting on hot exhaust components near the turbocharger outlet surfaced in March of 2010. After reviewing these cases, it was decided to include all trucks modified at this facility in the recall from the time of the production changeover until corrective actions were put in place in May of 2010.*

### III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

**5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.**

*The air brake hoses installed by Fontaine Modification are the parts in question. Fontaine installs 4 air lines per truck, from the OEM (Freightliner) brake valve on the firewall over to the Fontaine installed RH side foot brake. Routing of the hoses was found to be too close to the turbo outlet or the engine exhaust manifold (top of engine) on some trucks.*





***Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.***

*The cause of the melted air brake hoses was found to be miss-routing of the hoses by installers. The hoses on some trucks were not installed to ensure clearance from the turbo outlet piping, and in some cases the hoses were routed too close to the exhaust manifold on the top RH side of the engine.*

**Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.** *When the brake hoses melt and result in leaks, the brakes will lock up. The driver will then have to*

*tighten the cage pins on the air brake canisters to unlock the brakes so the truck can be moved and towed for repair. No one should drive the vehicle on the highway with the chambers caged.*

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.**

*Possible warning signs that there may be a leak in a brake hose is grabbing of the brakes with light foot pressure on the pedal. It may feel that the brakes are overly sensitive to pedal pressure, causing the vehicle to jerk while stopping.*

**If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address. NA**

**Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier: NA**

#### **IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance**

*If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.*

- 6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.** *Fontaine has received a total of 4 reports of air hose failures from the field.*

*The first failure was reported on 5/7/10 (VIN AU2704 modified on 12/21/09). The description of the melted air hoses and routing indicated that the hoses may not have been properly tied off near the turbo outlet on the RH side of the engine.*

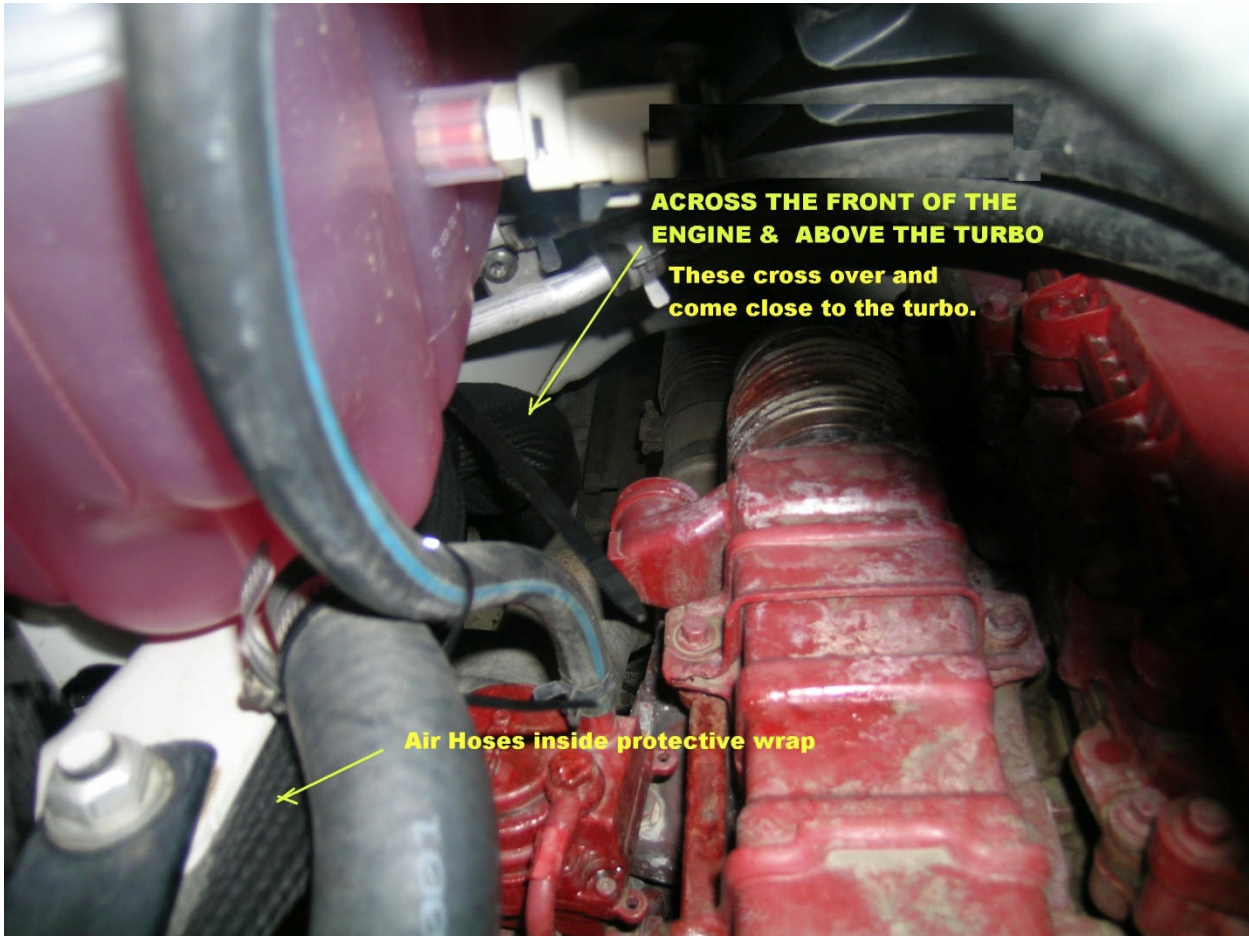
*The second failure was reported on 5/18/10 (VIN J2575 modified on 6/25/09). The dealership mechanic described the state and positioning of the air lines, which did not match proper tie down procedures near the turbo.*

*The third failed truck (AP5002 modified on 10/1/09) was reported on 5/21/10. It had the air lines melted at the engine exhaust manifold in top of the engine. Photos sent by the dealer did not match Fontaine's standard installation routing.*

*The 4<sup>th</sup> truck (VIN N7936 modified on 6/22/09) was reported on 7/2/10. Mechanic descriptions indicate the air lines melted at the turbo, and were not tied up properly in that area.*

*Just after the initial failure was reported on 5/7/10, Fontaine reviewed & revamped the manufacturing process at the Texas location. During July 2010 Fontaine began working with Elgin Sweeper (largest customer with this modification) by providing inspection and repair instructions. Elgin's dealer is TransChicago, and were the ones responsible for conducting the inspections and required repairs. Of the 34 trucks inspected in July and August, none were found with melted air lines; however, the dealer did find approximately half of the trucks did not have the air lines routed properly. These air lines were re-routed and properly tied in place on the trucks with improper routing.*

- 7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.**



**ACROSS THE FRONT OF THE  
ENGINE & ABOVE THE TURBO**

**These cross over and  
come close to the turbo.**

**Air Hoses inside protective wrap**



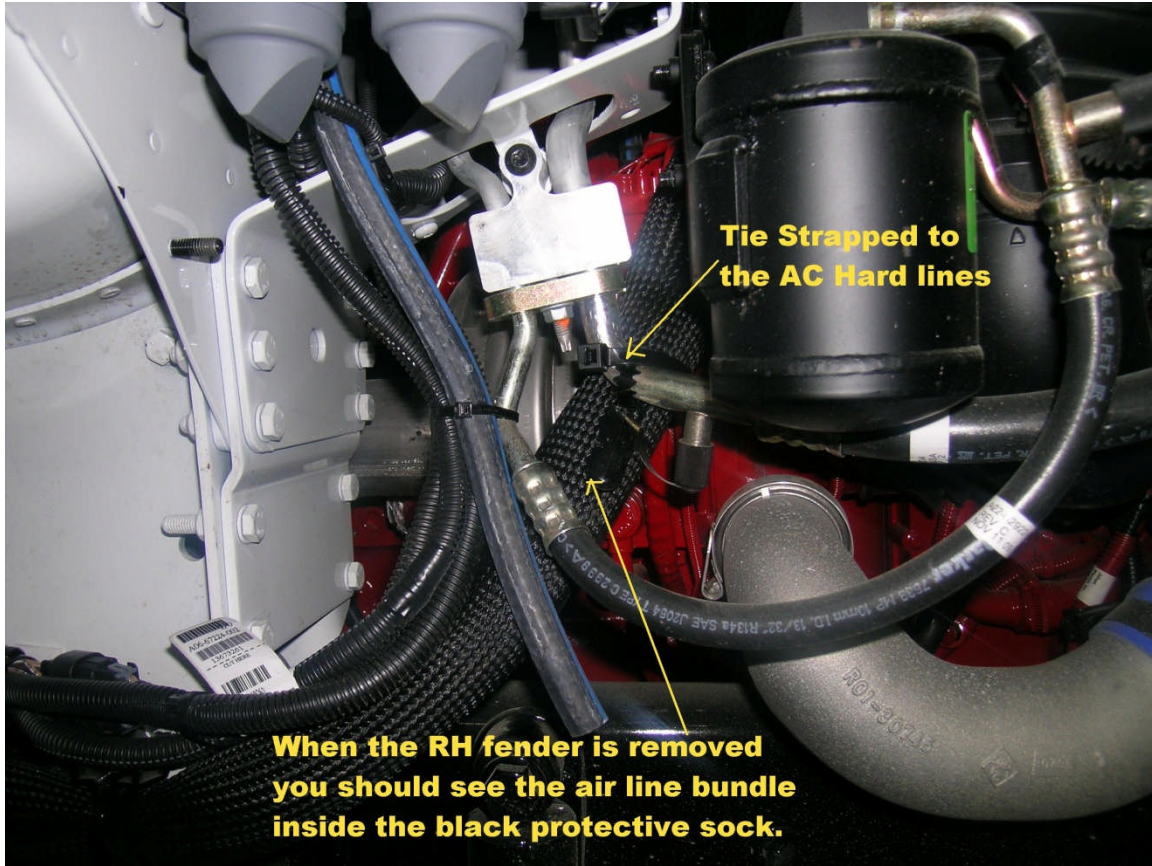
**V. Identify the Remedy:** *The remedy for any melted air hoses is to remove the affected hoses, contact Fontaine Modification for parts, and replace with new hoses and thermal wrap as shown below. For Air Hoses that are improperly routed, the remedy is to route per the enclosed photos away from hot exhaust components.*





**Black Heat Sock over air lines.  
Air Lines bundled together.**

Ensure hoses are not touching Engine  
Exhaust Manifold



**Tie Strapped to  
the AC Hard lines**

**When the RH fender is removed  
you should see the air line bundle  
inside the black protective sock.**

**MOST CRITICAL ROUTING STEP**



**4 Air Lines bundled inside Black Sock and tie strapped to the AC Hard Lines.**

**REMOVE RH SIDE FENDER TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE AIR LINES. SOCK MAY BE SILVER OR BLACK.**

**8. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.**

**Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.**

**Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.**

*THE PRODUCTION REMEDY IS THE SAME AS THE FIELD REMEDY.*

#### **VI. Identify the Recall Schedule**

**Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.**

*The largest customer affected (147 of 308 potential trucks) is Elgin Sweeper. They have been notified as well at their Freightliner dealership, TransChicago Truck Group, who performs work on their trucks TransChicago has already inspected 34 of the Elgin Trucks with the Fontaine Dual Steering conversation, per Fontaine's repair instructions, and found no melted air hoses. Some of the hoses were not routed properly however and had to be repositioned and re-tied.*

*Fontaine will inform all remaining customers within 2 weeks of the approval of this recall communication.*

#### **VII. Furnish Recall Communications**

**9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up)**

concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing. See attachments*

**Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.**