

BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.

To MEMO TO FILE
From ROBERT O. MARTIN
Date April 28, 2000
Reference
Security Class
Subject TIRE SURVEY

Ford requested a survey of Firestone Ford Explorers and Ford dealers in Dallas, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson were selected to remove tires from trade-in or lease return vehicles. The tires removed were P235/75R15 and P255/70R16 Firestone Wilderness AT tires. The tires were returned to Bridgestone/Firestone's Akron Technical Center for analysis by Bridgestone/Firestone and Ford. Before removing the tires, the dealers recorded the inflation pressure, the VIN Number, the position, and the odometer mileage. A total of 243 tires from 63 vehicles were returned.

The returned tires ranged in mileage from 11320 to 76092. Examination of the tires revealed no tire deficiencies and that the tires performed as expected.

Bridgestone/Firestone appreciates the efforts of the Ford Motor Company for coordinating the return of these tires from the dealers and for the time spent by Ford's engineering staff reviewing tires with us.


Robert O. Martin
Vice President, Corporate Quality Assurance

cc: Deepak Parekh - Ford
Jerry Metters - Ford

0500150

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/64-Vehicle Summary

LOCATION STATS:

Dealer	City	Total	P235/75R15	P255/70R16	P255/70R16	P235/75R15
			ST381J	ST358J	ST369J	Trade*
Click	Tucson	36	28		8	
Earnhardt	Tempe	30	20	4	6	
Friendly	Las Vegas	64	62		2	
Gaudin	Las Vegas	1	10		29	
Leadership	Dallas	8	14			1
Tuttle	Tucson	4	16		8	
unknown	unknown					
Total		243	153	4	85	1

City	Total	P235/75R15	P255/70R16	P255/70R16	P235/75R15
		ST381J	ST358J	ST369J	Trade*
Dallas	15	14			1
Las Vegas	125	64		61	
Tempe	30	20	4	6	
Tucson	39	64		16	
unknown					
Total		243	153	4	35

*Firestone Radial ATX aftermarket (trade) tire, P235/75R15

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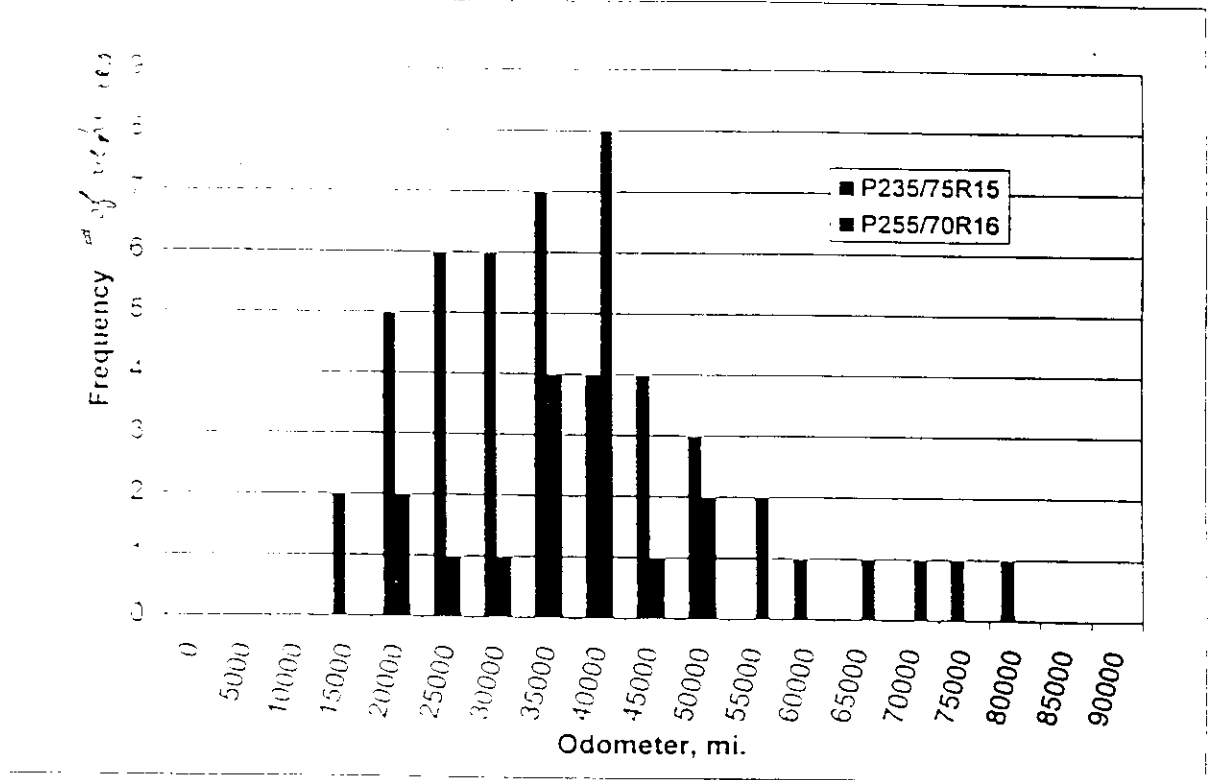
SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/64-Vehicle Summary

VEHICLE MILEAGE STATS:

Vehicle:	Model Year	Tires	Vehicles	Vehicle Avg. Mi	
	1995	1	1	72096	
	1996	1	1	68144	
	1997	14	22	36381	
	1998	116	35	29776	
	1999	1	1	16076	
	Tag Error	-	1	n/a	Excluded
	No VIN	-	1	47731	
	No Tag	-	1	n/a	Excluded
Total		243	64		

34649 =avg of vehicles not excluded (63)

Vehicle Mileage Histogram:



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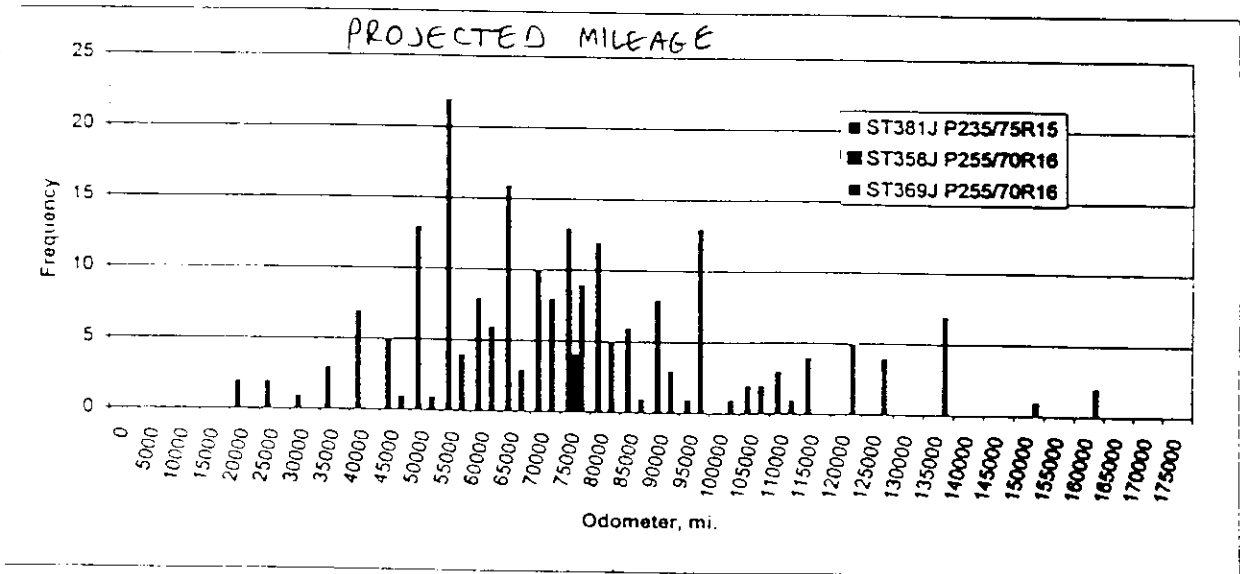
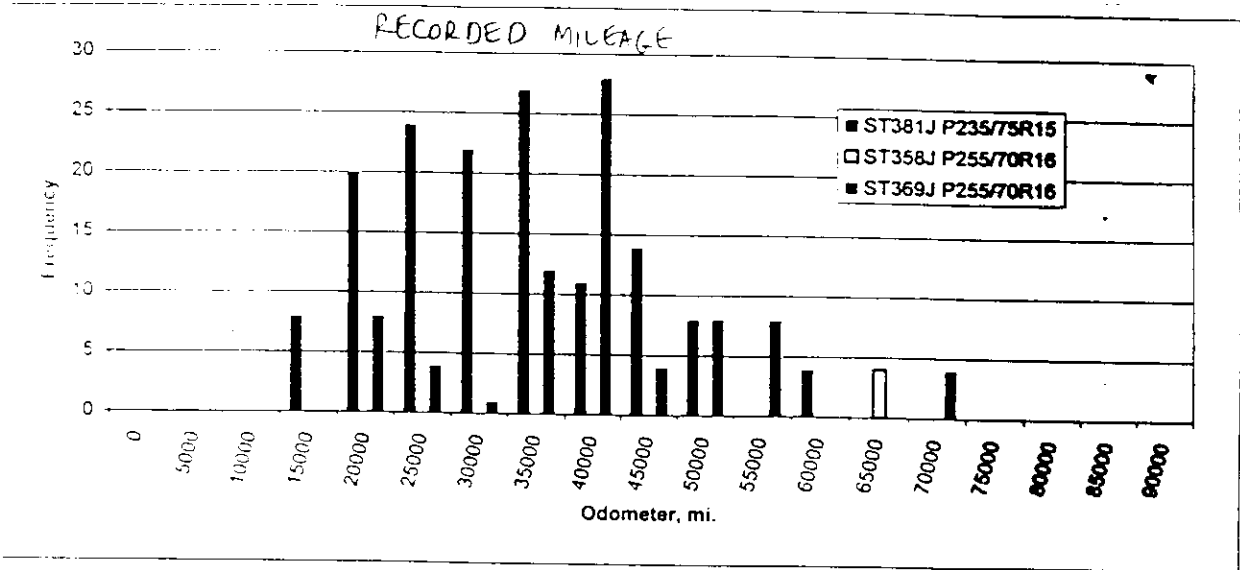
3/22/2000

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/64-Vehicle Summary

TIRE MILEAGE STATS:

Tires:	All Tires	P235/75R15	P255/70R16	P255/70R16	P235/75R15	Trade
		ST381J	ST358J	ST369J		
Reported	32995	29567	60062	37734		n/a
Projected	72343	63009	77961	88781		n/a
N	219	138	4	77		0
Replaced	18	9	0	8		1 (Excluded)
Spares	0	3	0	0		0 (Excluded)
Tag Error	2	2	0	0		0 (Excluded)
No Tag	1	1	0	0		0 (Excluded)



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3/22/2000

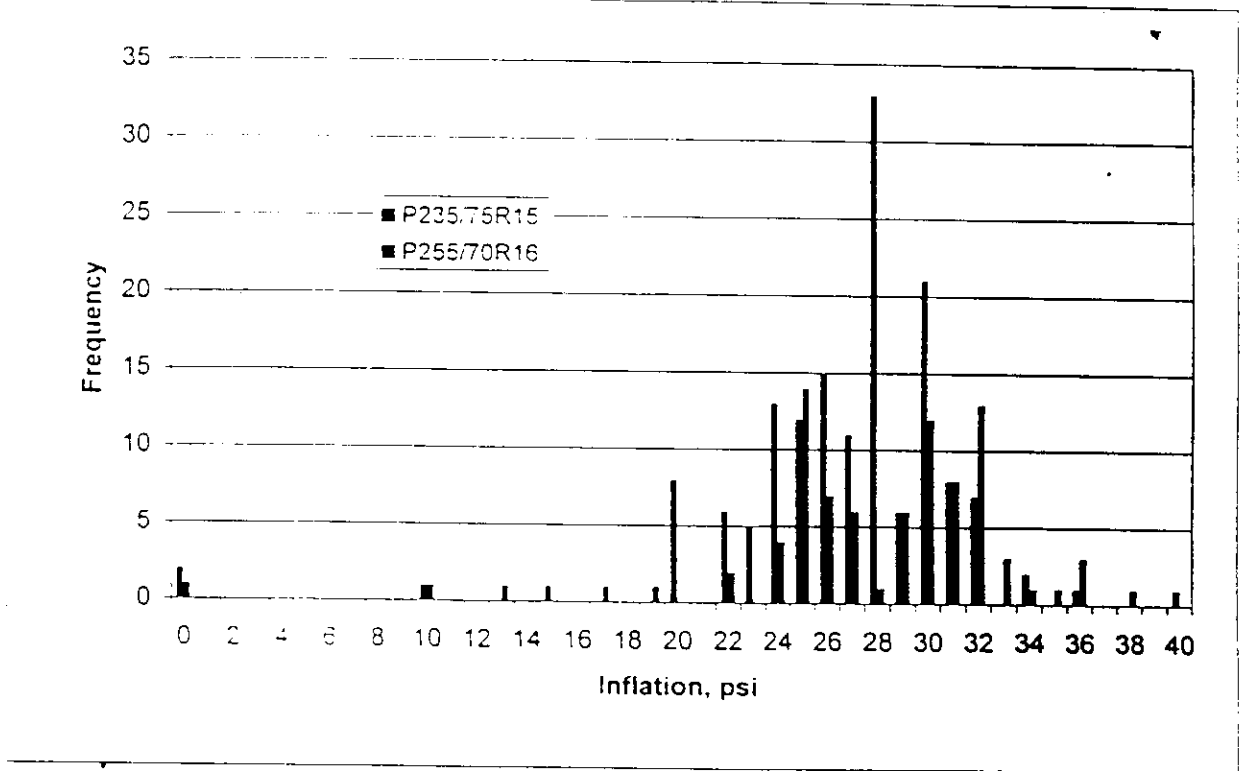
Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/64-Vehicle Summary

TIRE INFLATION STATS:

	All	P235/75R15 ST381J	P255/70R16 ST358J	P255/70R16 ST369J	P235/75R15 Trade
Avg Psi	27.1	26.6	26	28.1	30
N < 20 psi	9	4	4	5	1
N	240	152	4	83	1
No Tag	0	0	0	1	(Excluded)
Tag Error	0	0	0	1	(Excluded)

Inflation Pressure Histogram:



- Notes:**
- P235/75R15 vehicle inflation = 26/26 psi
 - P255/70R16 vehicle inflation = 30/30 psi
 - 48 (31%) P235/75R15 tires were < 26 psi
 - 45 (51%) P255/70R16 tires were < 30 psi
 - 9 tires were < 20 psi

0500154

3/22/2000

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/64-Vehicle Summary

INSPECTION STATS:

	Plug	Patch	Patch & Plug	Object Thru	Object Not Thru	Off Road	Tread Cuts
P235/75R15 ST381J	6	23	6	6	8	4	8
P255/70R16 ST358J	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
P255/70R16 ST369J	1	19	8	6	2	12	5
P235/75R15 Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total No. Tires	7	42	14	14	11	16	13
% of Tires	2.5%	13.6%	5.3%	5.8%	4.5%	6.6%	5.3%

	Plug	Patch	Patch & Plug	Object Thru	Object Not Thru	Off Road	Tread Cuts	Tires
Dallas	13.0%	20.0%	13.0%	6.6%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	15
Las Vegas	2.4%	15.2%	5.6%	6.4%	4.0%	6.4%	6.4%	125
Tempe	0.0%	9.4%	3.1%	9.4%	9.4%	0.0%	0.0%	32
Tucson	1.4%	12.9%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	11.4%	7.1%	70

Plug = Improper, exterior application cord repair

Patch = Internal tire patch

Patch & Plug = Internal patch with integral or separate hole plug

Object Thru = Usually nail/screw/staple with penetration completely through tire

Object Not Thru = Usually nail/screw/staple with penetration not completely through tire

Off Road = Tires with some indication of unimproved road use, i.e. gravel

Tread Cuts = Tires with deep cuts in tread area

- Notes:**
- Some tires had more than one of, or a combination of, each item above
 - 159 tires (65.4%) had none of the above
 - 52 tires (21.4%) had repair(s)
 - In most cases, objects through the tread (14 tires) were probably leaking
 - in some cases, objects stuck in tread but not through, will eventually penetrate
 - in 3 tires, repairs were made in the shoulder/buttruss of the tire (improper area)
 - In 1 tire, an internal patch was loose and probably permitting inflation loss
 - 8 tires were worn out or almost worn out, some with shoulder wipe
 - 1 tire was worn completely through the top steel belt in the shoulder

0500155

3/22/2000

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.



0500156

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/63-Vehicle Summary

LOCATION STATS:

Dealer	City	Total	P235/75R15	P255/70R16	P255/70R16	Trade
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Earnhardt	Phoenix	32	20	4	8	
Friendly	Las Vegas	64	32		32	
Gaudin	Las Vegas	61	32		29	
Leadership	Dallas	15	14			1
Tuttle	Tucson	34	26		8	
unknown	unknown	1	1			
Total		243	153	4	85	1

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		ST381J	ST358J	ST369J	
Dallas	15	14			1
Las Vegas	125	64		61	
Phoenix	32	20	4	8	
Tucson	70	54		16	
unknown	1	1			
Total	243	153	4	85	1

Andy Van. U150 Chief Prog. Eng.
 RVT
 U152
 Maybe Nick Kazan

mtg to review SW survey results

SW Tire Survey: 243-Tire/63-Vehicle Summary

MILEAGE STATS:

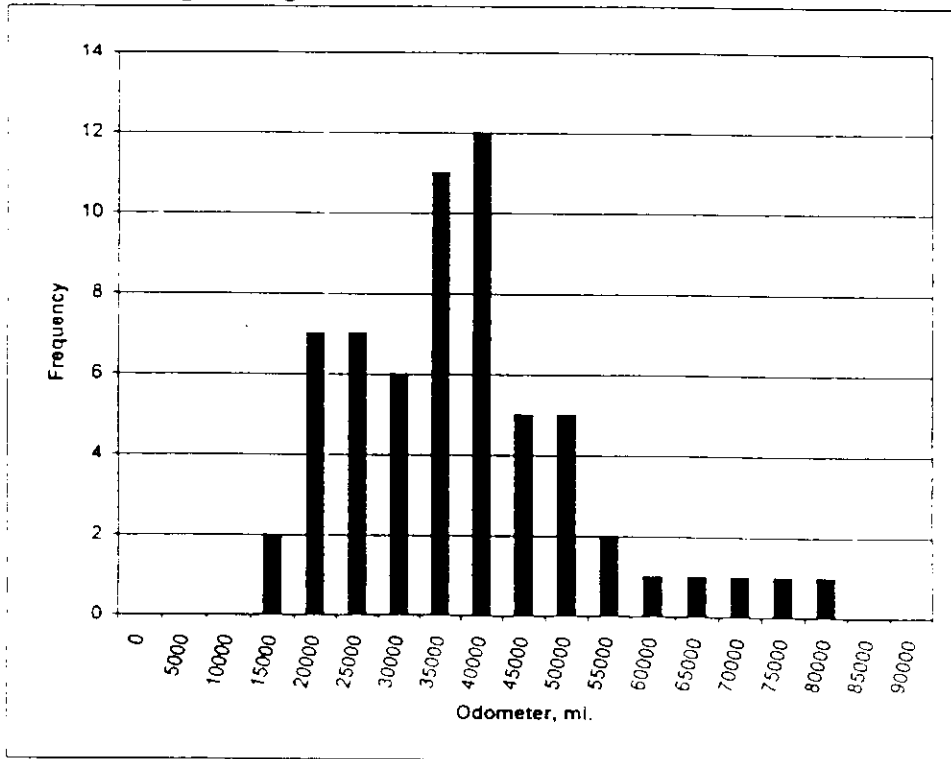
Vehicle:	Model Year	Tires	Vehicles	Vehicle Avg. Mi
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	1996	9	3	68144
	1997	86	22	36381
	1998	135	35	29776
	1999	4	1	16078
	unknown	5	1	47731
	Total	243	63	

34649 =avg all vehicles

Tires:	All Tires	P235/75R15 ST381J	P255/70R16 ST358J	P255/70R16 ST369J	Trade
Average	32967	29547	60062	37734	unk
Projected	72101	62693	77961	88781	unk
N	220	139	4	77	0
Excluded	23	14	0	8	1

Year/mileage of these vehicles

Vehicle Mileage Histogram:

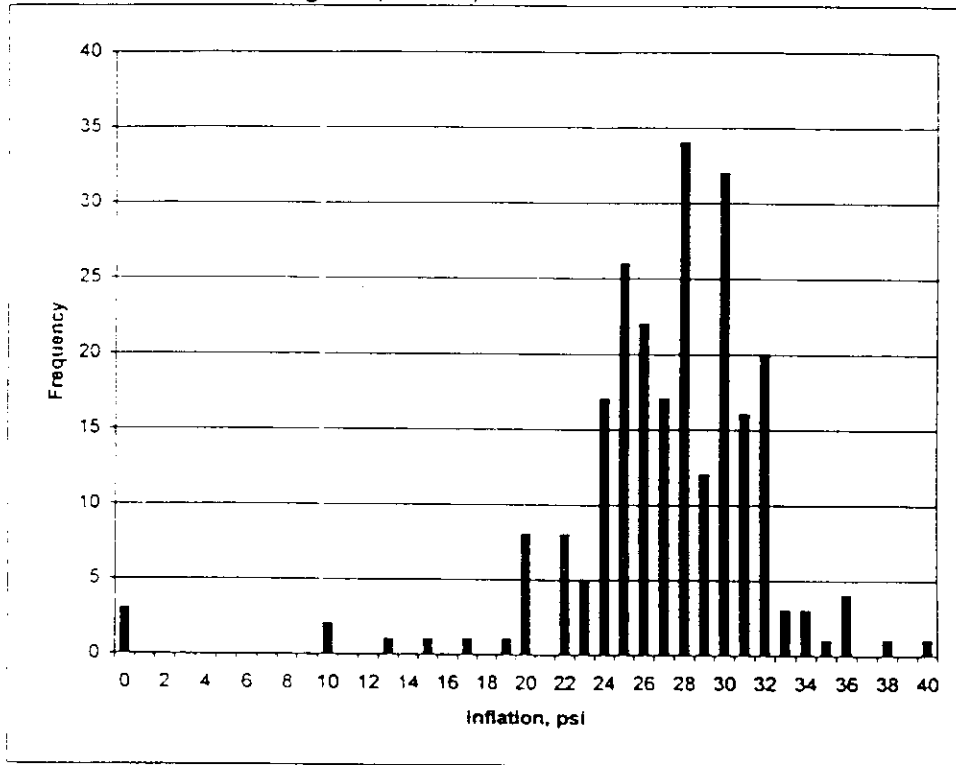


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Inflation Pressure Histogram (all tires):



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Total No.	7	42	14	14	11	
Tires	6	33	13	14	11	16
% of Tires	2.5%	13.6%	5.3%	5.8%	4.5%	6.6%

*Breakdown of repairs
by dealer.*

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No tires showed any indication of tread seps.