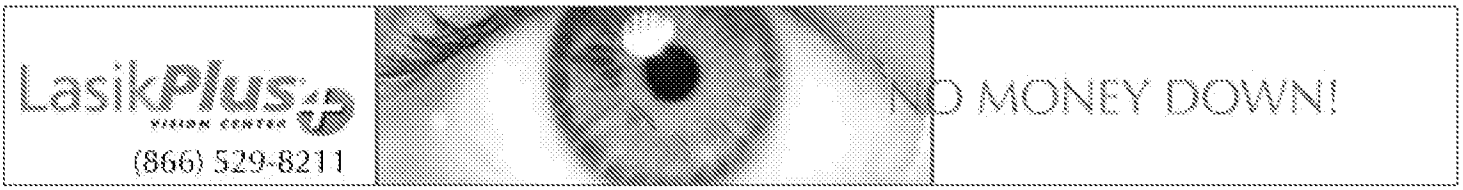


2007 Bus Routes

Check back daily for updates

click here

- our publications
  - The Eagle-Tribune
  - Gloucester Daily Times
  - Derry News
  - The Salem News
  - Andover Townsman
  - The Haverhill Gazette
  - The Daily News of Newburyport
  - Carriage Towne News
  - Town Crossings
- home delivery
- subscriber services
- contact us
- site map

Wed, Aug 29 2007

The Salem News online

log in to Plus!

Currently
81 F

Salem, MA
High 79 F Low 63
F

CLICK FOR MORE WEATHER

- Home
- News
- Obituaries
- Sports
- Opinion
- Lifestyle
- Special Features
- Multimedia
- Blogs
- Help

ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION TOY-TQ001-00009212

Published: August 27, 2007 12:00 am

Ford testing software to control police cruisers

By Paul Leighton , Staff writer
Salem News

View as a multiple pages

BEVERLY - The Ford Motor Co. is testing computer software for its police cruisers to prevent the kind of sudden acceleration incidents reported last year by Beverly police.

The software would make it more difficult for the car to speed up if the driver accidentally steps on the gas and brakes at the same time, the company says.

"You would have to be much more purposeful in stepping on the accelerator," Ford spokesman Daniel Jarvis said. "It would make that phenomenon less likely to happen."

Last year nine Beverly police officers and the head of the motor pool reported at least 13 incidents of sudden acceleration with the department's three new Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors, known as CVPIs.

One of those cruisers was involved in an accident that killed a woman last January. [redacted] has been charged with negligent vehicular homicide in that crash.

All three cruisers in question are now off the road. The city replaced them earlier this year with three new Dodge Chargers at a cost of about $80,000.

Jarvis said a "very, very tiny fraction" of police departments across the country have reported instances of their cruisers accidentally accelerating. He said he did not know the exact number.

In every case that Ford has examined, Jarvis said, the computerized report from the "event data recorder" in the

Resources

- Print this story
- E-mail this story

More from the News section

Even at 'reduced price,' Manchester estate sets North Shore record

Demand up for teachers; districts hire until the last minute

Driver in fatal food run back behind bars

ONE VOICE: All that jazz

Bus Routes 2007

Print Advertisement

ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION TOY-TQ001-00009213

vehicles has shown that the driver was stepping on the gas pedal and brake pedal at the same time, either with one foot or two feet.

The new software that Ford is testing would prevent the car from speeding up in such cases unless the driver stepped very hard on the gas pedal, Jarvis said.

Jarvis said the company is only testing the software and hasn't decided whether it will go through with its development. Even if it did, he said, Ford would install the software on police cruisers only if police departments request it.

Jarvis said some police departments want to preserve the ability to step on the gas and brake at the same time in certain situations, such as trying to force another vehicle to spin out during a pursuit, or trying to get out of a snow bank.

"It still lets officers use two-footed maneuvers when they have to," he said.

The new software would be used only in CVPI models from 2005 and beyond, because the throttle in those newer models is controlled by a sensor. Instead of a cable connecting the gas pedal to the throttle, a computer sends a signal to open the throttle when the driver steps on the accelerator.

The new software would force the driver to step harder on the gas pedal to override the brake.

"It wouldn't be a drastic change," Jarvis said.

[redacted] lawyer has blamed mechanical problems in the cruiser for the crash that killed a Beverly woman last January. The case has not yet gone to court.

[redacted] cruiser was totaled in the fatal accident. The other two cruisers involved with sudden acceleration reports are sitting unused at the city garage, said Bradford Koch, foreman of the city's motor pool.

"They're collecting dust," Koch said. "We're afraid to use them."

Staff writer Paul Leighton can be reached at (978) 338-2675 or by e-mail at pleighton@ecnnews.com.

BOOKMARK

More stories from the News section

WEDNESDAY OPEN HOUSES
TONIGHT 4/29/07 FROM 5:00-6:30

330 ESSEX STREET, UNIT 2, SALEM, $399,000
Tucked in the heart of the McIntire Historic District this impeccable circa 1846Greek Revival townhome is the one you have been waiting for. The prestigious property is one of two condominiums developed by Steve Thomas formerly of This Old House. Features include 2+BR, updated kitchen w/stainless appliances and private yard. Exquisite details including 3 fireplaces, pergola, 1 1/2 baths, and parking easement. Exceptional home and location offer the best of living in historic downtown Salem.

266 ESSEX STREET, UNIT 5, SALEM, $259,900
Heart of downtown Salem. Charming one bedroom condo with cathedral ceilings, hardwood floors, granite and stainless kitchen, large marble bath with tub/shower and laundry. Private deck, parking, walk to everything. Pet friendly. A wonderful home.

Jeffrey Keller
Experience Exceptional Service

Call for details
617-257-7179
7177 Church St., Salem, MA
COLDWELL BANKER

Click Image to Enlarge

DOYLE

Swamps
Producti
Full tim
working

Dishwa

With ex
club. Go
Penny o
MORE

CLIEN

NFI Ma
Passages
looking
responsi

AUTO

Auto De
Tech- N
Come jo
industry
We are

See all a

Premiu

IPSWI

IPSWIC
apartme
pets. $9
1st & se

Salem V

Rare op
with 3 b
fireplace
through

NEWB

2-3 bedr
setting,
living ro

ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION TOY-TQ001-00009214

23 Yr Old Makes Big Bucks
Learn Business That Makes Me More In A Month Than Most Make In A Year
www.FastFortunesNow.com

Discount Airlines Sale
Cheap Fares on Discount Airlines Save 65% on Next Trip, All Airlines
www.CheapoAir.com

Sexy Singles
Browse photos of sexy singles Search profiles for free
mate1.com

ECLIPSE - car navigation
ECLIPSE all-in-one navigation and entertainment products
www.eclipse-web.com

Ads by Google

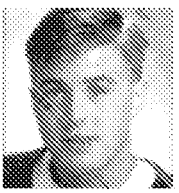
yard, clc

DANVE

DANVE
newly re
parking,
smoking

See all a

SHE MARRIED HIM??!!
AND THEYVE GOT 7 KIDS??
classmates.com



Find Your Old School Here

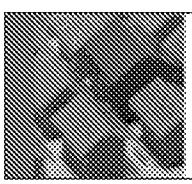
– City –
– State –
Search

Resources: HomesNorth Help Wanted Legal Notices MA Lottery NH Lottery Maps Movies Phonebook Stocks TV Weather

About Us FAQ Advertise Subscribe Submit Ad Submit Story Contact Us Careers

The Salem News, 32 Dunham Road, Beverly, MA 01915 - 978-922-1234

© Copyright Eagle Tribune Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
100 Turnpike Street, North Andover, MA 01845 978-946-2000



Time to buy **Time to**

Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. • CNHI Classified Advertising Network • CNHI News Service
Associated Press content © 2006. All rights reserved. AP content may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
Our site is powered by Zope and our Internet Yellow Pages site is powered by PremierGuide.
Some parts of our site may require you to download the Flash Player Plugin.

- The Eagle-Tribune
- Gloucester Daily Times
- Daily News of Newburyport
- Salem News
- Weekly Papers
  - Andover Townsman
  - Carriage Town News
  - Derry News
  - Haverhill Gazette

ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION TOY-TQ001-00009215

- Town Crossings

ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION TOY-TQ001-00009216