



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

September 12, 2018

Mr. Mike Becker  
Director of Corporate Compliance  
Forest River, Inc.  
2324 Century Drive  
Goshen, IN 46528

NEF-150MR  
18V-545

**Subject:** Break-Away Safety Switch may be Improperly Wired

Dear Mr. Becker:

This letter serves to acknowledge Forest River, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

COACHMEN/FREEDOM EXPRESS/2019

**Mfr's Report Date:** August 17, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-545

**Components:**

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 69

**Problem Description:**

Forest River, Inc. (Forest River) is recalling certain 2019 Coachmen Freedom Express recreational trailers. The break-away safety switch was not wired to a constant power source, and, as a result, the switch may be inadvertently disconnected from the trailer house battery and cause the brakes to not engage if the trailer detaches from the tow vehicle.

**Consequence:**

If the trailer brakes cannot engage if the trailer detaches from tow vehicle, there would be an increased risk of a crash.

**Remedy:**

Forest River has notified owners, and dealers will correct the break-away safety switch wiring, free of charge. The recall began September 11, 2018. Owners may contact Coachmen Freedom Express customer service at 1-574-825-8657. Forest River's number for this recall is 220/320-0825.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement