



Unsafe Cruise Control Leads to Mercedes Recall

by *John Demas* on 04/07/11 at 9:30 am

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Mercedes-Benz has recalled over 136,000 of its popular M-Class SUV's due to complaints that the cruise control was not disengaging when average pressure was applied to the brake pedal. According to the agency, an "unusually high" amount of force is required to disengage the throttle control that keeps the vehicle accelerated at a designated speed. The recall affects M-Class vehicles from model years 2000 to 2002. Owners of these vehicles should contact Mercedes to have the issue corrected.

Obviously, this type of manufacturing defect represents a serious safety concern. Even a momentary inability of a driver to slow a vehicle at high speeds can result in a major crash resulting in death or serious personal injuries. Toyota drew national attention recently when a sticking accelerator was blamed for a runaway vehicle and crash that killed a CHP officer and his family.

Consumer products must be designed and manufactured in a way that ensures they are reasonably safe when used in the manner intended. Manufacturers and sellers of products must also provide warnings to consumers of the dangers associated with use of their product. If a manufacturer or distributor sells an unreasonably dangerous product, or fails to provide a reasonable warning of a danger associated with a product, and that product kills or injures someone, it has a legal obligation to pay the victims for the associated losses.

Demas & Rosenthal, LLP, has successfully investigated and pursued hundreds of claims of victims injured or killed because of defective products. If you believe you or a loved one has

been the victim of a defective product, the product itself is key evidence and it is critical that you preserve the product in the condition that it was in at the time of the injury. If you have possession of the product, do not let anyone touch it until you have spoken to a *California product liability attorney*. If another party has possession of the product, immediately send them a letter stating you believe the product is evidence and not to dismantle, alter or destroy the product. In all product liability cases, it is critical to speak to a qualified California personal injury attorney immediately.

California product liability attorneys can successfully obtain compensation for injured individuals. **Demas and Rosenthal, LLP** successfully represents victims who have been seriously injured or killed as the result of defective products. If you sustained injuries due to a defective product, contact the **California product liability attorneys** at Demas & Rosenthal to discuss your rights.