

Side airbag recall and deployment by static charge

Rick Kehoe - 31/07/2006 10:05:54 AM

Does anyone have any information on the seat airbags in the ford and commodore firing accidentally. Len Watson in his ResQMed newsletter in England quotes problems in Australia with the seat airbag firing when someone places their weight on the or near the module. The newsletter refers to an Australia wide recall and thirteen cases of accidental deployment. Is anyone aware of these incidents or have the information on the recall. The newsletter is at www.resqmed.com/menu.html and the article about the recall and suggested measures to mitigate the risk are at http://www.resqmed.com/Rescuer_Beware_Airbag.pdf. I am interested to hear other agencies views on this and also if this is a widely known problem. Thanks Rick Kehoe
Victorian Ambulance

Rick Kehoe - 31/07/2006 10:24:42 AM

Further to the previous post there are several recalls listing the problem with the earth wire connection separating, leaving the airbag open to static charge deployment. http://www.recalls.gov.au/view_recall_detail.php?Recall_ID_Auto=13991 and for our New Zealand operatives, www.consumer.org.nz Rick Kehoe

Daryl Rush - 6/10/2006 11:16:57 AM

Rick and ARRO members, I have witnessed a late model Ford sedan with a 'deployment' of the side airbag while the driver was egressing the vehicle. The vehicle was being returned to the dealership to have the fault rectified and my have missed the original recall. I am aware of other vehicle manufacturers having similar recalls. As rescuers, we should all be aware that some vehicles may have missed the recall as well, and take this into consideration when on scene, but also to consider the impact of cutting a seat away through it's mounts, and whether this has a similar result if the earthing wire is severed during the task. Regards Daryl Rush.