



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc

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SUBJECT CUTTING TOOL LIMITATIONS ON FUTURE VEHICLE DESIGNS

In late 2004 ARRO members were able to gain access to some new concept cars being developed by a leading Australian vehicle manufacturer in order to undertake testing of a variety of makes and models of currently available rescue tools. The car, when released, will be available world wide through the manufacturers partner companies.

The testing that was undertaken is strictly confidential at the request of the vehicle manufacturer until they are ready to release the vehicle in 2006, at which time full details including video footage will be released. Until then specific details of the test results can only be released on approval of the manufacturer.

ARRO has commenced analysis of the results of tests and can advise the following:

- New hybrid metals, which are substantially stronger than current materials, are being used in these new vehicles.
- Three leading brands of hydraulic rescue tool manufacturer and two reciprocating saw brands were tested.
- Only the latest model cutters (and in some cases these were still in prototype form and not yet available for purchase) were able to cut through the new materials.
- Models of tool that are considered standard tools, only one or two years old (i.e. those carried on most rescue trucks around Australia and New Zealand) had significant difficulty cutting through the materials these new cars are constructed from.

More information will be supplied when detailed analysis is complete and the vehicle manufacturer has agreed to the release of more detailed information.

ARRO recommends that all rescue providers give consideration to budgeting for the replacement or upgrade of cutting tools in time for the release of these new vehicles.

**SOURCE
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This information is provided by ARRO as a service to members. ARRO does not guarantee its accuracy and wherever possible will quote the source of the information for further enquiries.