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SUBJECT AIR BAGS CAN DEAFEN

Reported in Daily Telegraph newspaper, London, 19 February 1999:

The noise of a car air bag inflating in an accident may cause hearing loss and persistent tinnitus, according to a report published yesterday. The article in the British Medical Journal suggests that injuries from air bags may become more common. Graham Buckley, a head and neck surgeon at Leeds General Infirmary, conducted the study with colleagues from St James University Hospital, Leeds and the Vehicle Safety Research Centre, based in Loughborough. An inflating air bag can generate a sound level of up to 170 decibels, lasting for 0.1 seconds, it was found. Two case studies included in the article found that hearing can be damaged, especially at low speeds. The first related to a woman involved in a collision in America whilst driving at 20 mph. In the second, a man hit another vehicle at about 15 mph.

SOURCE Mike Akers (Past Chairman of CUEES)
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