



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc

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SUBJECT MNEMONIC FOR SUPPLEMENTARY RESTRAINT SYSTEMS

Advancements in current motor vehicle design include ever increasing developments in Supplementary Restraint Systems (SRS). For agencies and rescuers attending road rescue incidents, understanding and managing SRS during constant change is a current, and future challenge.

Mnemonics have assisted emergency service providers to structure a format that is easy to remember in a systematic approach. For example 'RECEO', is used by fire agencies to systematically prioritise the factors to manage a fire incident.

R rescue
E exposures
C contain
E extinguish
O overhaul

Similarly a mnemonic can be developed to assist rescuers at road rescue incidents when confronted with a vehicle fitted with SRS. When it is identified that a vehicle is fitted with SRS during a road rescue incident, a standard term to assist in systematically prioritising factors to manage SRS would be ideal.

For the rescuer who identifies that a vehicle is fitted with SRS, and extrication is required, 'SIRENS' should go off in the rescuers mind.

S Scan for SRS

- identify vehicle type, conduct inner/outer survey of vehicle for SRS labels or identifiers, 'manage by distance' for patient/rescuer safety and use agency protocols

I Isolate battery/s (*consult FORS SRS handbook for times*)

- use battery/s for moving electric seats, windows and doors before isolating

R Remove interior trim

- to locate any SRS prior to commencing disentanglement techniques

E Extricate

- complete disentanglement techniques and extricate patient/s

N Never re-energise battery/s

- re-energising the battery/s may reactivate the SRS fitted to the vehicle

S Supply and fit SRS tape

- emergency services should provide a warning tape* or notice, to place on vehicles with undeployed SRS post incident, prior to handing over to other agencies



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Page 1 of 1

* Some emergency services have adopted various styles of warning tape. Eg. NSWFB, QFRS and VIC Fire and emergency services

This mnemonic is a general guide for use as a memory jogger, that could be adopted by emergency service providers who don't have any procedures in place to identify and manage SRS in vehicles involved in road rescue incidents.

Agency protocols to manage SRS during road rescue incidents may vary across emergency service providers in Australasia.

A review and report on the use of Airbag Restraint Devices for Supplementary Restraint Systems in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), was conducted by QFRS, and was released in July 2003.

This document is being released to ARRO by QFRS for information only, and will be available soon at the new ARRO website, www.arro.org.au under 'Technical Bulletins'.

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