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SUBJECT: MULTI LAMINATE VEHICLE SIDE GLASS

Multi Laminate Glass (MLG) is now becoming more common on passenger vehicles.

This new material is constructed in a similar manner to conventional windscreen laminate glass. That is, a plastic membrane is bonded between two pieces of safety glass. MLG varies in that it is made up of several layers (glass – plastic – glass – plastic – glass -). The end result is a high strength product used for occupant safety as well as a deterrent to would be thieves.

Rescuers should note that the glass panel is unlikely to fracture in the same way conventional laminate glass does. Removal of MLG panels using conventional techniques will be difficult, therefore increasing time to gain access to casualties.

MLG can be cut using a reciprocating saw with a fine to medium blade. For operator, rescue and casualty safety a number of procedures should be followed:

1. Follow your Service's protocols for on scene activities and vehicle stabilisation.
2. Confirm that no other techniques can be used to gain access to the casualty. Commence the entry process at the MLG panel furthest from the casualty in order to limit the potential impact of glass fragments or saw activity on the casualty.
3. All rescue personnel should wear appropriate, approved personal protective equipment. In addition to normal head, body (clothing) and hand protection, particular emphasis should be given to eye, ear and respiratory protection. Use of power saws on glass can produce airborne glass particles small enough not to be visible to the naked eye, but which can be inhaled.
4. At the earliest opportunity similar protection should be provided for the casualty.

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