

DELAWARE STATE FIRE SCHOOL
For Your Instruction: In-Service Drill

AIR BAGS

PURPOSE

To familiarize members with proper operation of air bag(s).

OBJECTIVE

At the conclusion of the drill each student will have participated in air bag drills

EQUIPMENT

Air bag(s)
Protection plates (3/4" plywood)
Cribbing
Salvage auto(s)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Members will utilize full personal protective equipment (PPE) with eye protection.
2. Air bag safety rules:
 - a. Plan the operation before starting the work.
 - b. Be thoroughly familiar with the equipment. It's operating principles, methods, and limitations.
 - c. Review operator's manuals and follow the recommendations for the specific system used.
 - d. Keep all components in good operating condition and all safety seals in place.
 - e. Have an adequate air supply and sufficient cribbing and protection plates before beginning operation.
 - f. Position the bag(s) on or against a solid surface.
 - g. Never inflate bag(s) against sharp objects.
 - h. Inflate bag(s) slowly and monitor for any shifting.
 - i. Never work under a load supported only by bags (crib as you inflate).
 - j. Shore up the load with enough cribbing blocks to more than adequately support the load in case of bag failure or shifting.
 - k. Stop the procedure often to increase shoring or cribbing – lift an inch, crib an inch
 - l. Assure proper cribbing procedures as operation continues.
 - m. Avoid exposing bags to materials hotter than 220°.

- n. Never stack more than two (2) bags; center the bags with the smaller bag on top. Inflate bottom bag first.

REFERENCES

IFSTA, "Principles of Extrication"

EVOLUTION

Air bag(s) to lift car.

STEP 1: Place the bag(s) on the ground directly beneath the lowest, solid portion of the vehicle frame.

NOTE: If there are any sharp edges, use protection plates.

If the manufacturer recommends it, stack two (2) bags on top of each other. Inflate one at a time, bottom bag first.

STEP 2: Start to inflate the bag(s) slowly. As the vehicle starts to lift, construct box cribs at each end of the vehicle.

NOTE: Assure that cribbing will hold the weight of vehicle in the event of air bag failure. Once the desired height is achieved, deflate the air bag(s) until the vehicle is resting firmly on the cribbing.

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