



THE FACTS ON LAPTOPS & AIRBAGS

READ YOUR OWNERS MANUAL!

Consult the police fleet owners guide or supplement in the glove box

Supplemental Restraint Systems (SRS) or Airbags have been documented for saving thousands of lives. A growing number of law enforcement, public safety and fleet vehicles have been found to contain electronic and computer equipment mounted in the airbag deployment path. This improperly mounted equipment has been known to be **destroyed** and sometimes cause **moderate to severe injuries**. Cell phones, wires, radar, laptop computers, terminals, microphones, video cameras, dash emergency lights, opticom strobes, and other equipment improperly mounted in the front passenger airbag can become flying projectiles during airbag deployment. **Dave Long, "The Airbag Detective"** met with the NHTSA SCI Team in Washington D.C. and presented cases, which prompted the "Aftermarket Equipment Safety Bulletin" on 08/5/02. Dave presented at the *NAFA Law Enforcement Fleet Conference*. See www.nhtsa.dot.gov, type in search "aftermarket equipment" or www.nafa.org, and 2003 Education-Presentations, "Airbags and Equipment Installation."

THE DASHBOARD AREA:

- Follow the **OEM**, original equipment manufacturers instructions or diagram regarding mounting of any electronic, computer equipment or other aftermarket equipment, or OEM's side and side curtain airbags.
- Improperly mounted aftermarket equipment mounted, to, in front of, or on top of the instrument panel poses a safety risk for the vehicle occupants. Not only decreases the effectiveness of the airbag, but may become a projectile during airbag deployment. **Follow the manufacturer's guidelines:**

FORD MOTOR COMPANY:

- Go to www.fleet.ford.com. Diagrams for Crown Victoria, Explorer, Expedition, and Excursion.
- Point to "Products" tab and drop down menu will offer: "Police Vehicles".
- Click on Crown Victoria, Expedition or Excursion. See 2003 Crown Vic info under "Expedition".
- Click on "Police brochure" on that page to bring up the information about mounting information and diagram OR via phone call the **Ford Fleet Hotline** at **1-800-34-FLEET(5338)**.
- **Fire and EMS Ambulances: F and E Series refer to the "Body Builders Layout Book" with the dealer or the ambulance manufacturer, occupant protection systems and airbag sections.**

GENERAL MOTORS:

- Go to www.gmfleet.com. Diagrams for Impala, Tahoe and Express Van.
- Click on the "USA" and "Site Map". Scroll down to "Specialty Vehicles" scroll to "Law Enforcement".
- Scroll down to "Safety Information", "Caution" or "Airbag FAQ" or type of vehicle and "Safety" for mounting information and diagram OR call **GM Fleet Operations** at **1-800-FLEET-OP (353-3867)**.

DAIMLER CHRYSLER:

- Go to www.fleet.chrysler.com. Diagrams for Intrepid, consult "*Police Car Supplement Owners Manual*."
- Click on "Vehicles" scroll to "line-up".
- Scroll down for "Dodge Intrepid Police Package" for general information, diagrams coming soon.
- This will take you to the Fleet Services Area OR call **Chrysler's Fleet Info Center** at **1-800-999-FLEET**.

See www.airbaginstitute.com for the Intensive *A.L.E.R.T Airbag Safety Class's* @ **800-994-9780 X5452**

Dave's articles are in Nat'l Sheriffs Mag. July-Aug 2002 and Police and Security News, November-December 2002, LA Times