



North Memorial
Medical Center

Level 1 Trauma Center with Pediatric Commitment



NBC Nightly News and Fox News First Report to Feature Airbag Dangers to First Responders

In Pennsylvania - One firefighter was knocked **unconscious** by the airbag when it deployed, he was hospitalized overnight. Another firefighter was also slightly injured. There was smoke coming from the dash just before the airbags deployed in the 2002 Mercedes vehicle as the firefighters were checking the vehicle. Similar, but minor incidents have occurred with emergency responders and technicians in other areas such as Minnesota, Arizona and California. **This report was heard on the NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw on Tuesday, November 25th, 0530 p.m. and the Fox National News on Dec 22 and 23.** Several airbags deployed accidentally on firefighters during several test scenarios. **Dave Long**, nationally known as *"The Airbag Detective"*, an energetic national presenter, paramedic and R.N., who works for **North Memorial Medical Center**. His partner is **Mitch Becker**, Technical Consultant, **ABRA Auto Body & Glass**, I-CAR Instructor, and National Glass Association-Master Auto Glass Technician. Dave and Mitch set up 2 rescue scenarios with 3 airbag deployments simulating airbags blowing in the middle of a rescue for the **NBC Nightly News** using mannequins and patient dummies. This demonstrates the need for intensive advanced training for all first responders on airbags in cars. Long teaches 8 classes related to airbag safety:

- The A.L.E.R.T. Intensive Advanced Airbag Safety Class
- Airbag Awareness classes for Conferences or High Schools
- "The Nation's Top 10 Airbag Stories "
- "Airbag and Seatbelt Injuries"
- "Windshields Under Fire-Airbags Lose their Support-The 20/20 Story"
- "Mama Don't Let Your Officers(Drivers) Eat Laptops for Lunch"
- "Side Impact Airbags-Do you know all 7 kinds and 7 Locations?"
- "Advanced Airbags and New Restraints" AND Dave also presents:
- *"5 Cars That Can Shock You-Hybrid Electric Vehicles!"*
- *"Emergency Vehicle Crashes-The Pitfalls of Running Hot"*
- *"Trauma Crashes-Difficult Airways & Case Presentations"*
- *"Freeway Operations and Roadway Safety"*
- *"After the Car Crash"-Insuring the Healing Process*
- *"Top 20 Defensive Driving Tips for Responders"*
- ***NEW "Detroit Auto Show New Car Anatomy for 05"***

Becker and Long says there are **30** known cases of technicians and emergency responders being injured by airbags, though probably many more as data collection about such incidents has been weak. "It's really surprising that more workers and emergency responders haven't been hurt. It's an accident waiting to happen," Dave says. **Airbags save lives.** Airbags also present technicians and responders with serious issues with a crashed vehicle.

Long was the featured speaker on airbags and advanced restraints at the Int'l Association of **Fire Chiefs IAFC-MED Conference** at Las Vegas, and the 02 **TERC/IRECA Int'l Extrication Competition** in Minneapolis. Dave also gave the opening keynote address at the **North Dakota, Iowa EMS and Traffic Safety Conferences**. Dave presented a **NAFA Law Enforcement Fleet** conference in August in San Antonio "Aftermarket Equipment Installation and Airbags" class. *"Dave's airbag class should be attended by every firefighter, EMT, medic, first responder, officer, traffic/highway safety and injury prevention person,"* said Mike, firefighter/EMT and police officer. Mitch and Dave were the featured speakers on airbags at the **National Glass Association and Independent Glass Association conferences**. Dave and Mitch just returned from their first **International Conference on airbag safety in Jamaica**. He also spoke on the subject of airbag safety at the **EMS Expo/NAEMT(National EMT)/AAA Conference** in Las Vegas. Dave also gave an exciting 2 hour presentation on the "Top 10 Airbag Safety Stories" to over 200 officers at the **NHTSA's Region III conference** in Williamsburgh, Virginia this spring.

Technology can change rapidly, like the new BMW 7 & 5 Series can come with 10-12 airbags! Some newer and inexpensive cars have head curtain airbags that are 6 feet long. Several vehicles have curtain airbags that are 8 feet long with 2 hybrid canister locations. Now 3000 kinds of cars, SUV's and pickups come with side impact airbags. There are 7 kinds in 7 different locations. Rescuers need to know where the side airbags canisters are located. Becker and Long teach 8 reasons why airbags can not be deactivated, including the airbag danger zones. The December-January issue of *Advanced Rescue Technology* magazine will carry Dave's cover and feature article on airbags. Long also teaches how to access and treat **airbag injuries**, although relatively minor. All responders are taught how to fill out a NHTSA's **Special Crash Investigation form** when side or curtain airbags deploy.

"One of the best classes and most informative at the Expo", FF/EMT/CPS Tech, CO
"Dave has the GRADUATE LEVEL airbag safety class", FF/EMT Car engineer, NJ
"Definitely the best airbag safety and restraint class ever," Deputy Fire Chief, FL

See also www.airbaginstitute.com, Contact Dave at (800) 994-9780 x5452 or 763-520-5452, 763-520-4969 fax dave.long@northmemorial.com, 3500 France Ave North, Suite 103 Robbinsdale, MN 55422(10-04) -END-