Consumer Information About the Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)

The SRS (Supplemental Restraint System) airbag warning light on the instrument panel displays the airbag symbol depicted in the illustration. The system checks the airbag electrical system for malfunctions. The light indicates that there is a potential malfunction with your airbag system, which could include your side and curtain airbags used for rollover protection. During a frontal collision, sensors will detect the vehicle's deceleration. If the deceleration rate (measured in G-force) is high enough, the control unit will inflate the front airbags.

The front airbags help protect the driver and front passenger by responding to frontal impacts in which seat belts alone cannot provide adequate restraint. When needed, the side airbags help provide protection in the event of a side impact or rollover. Airbags are activated (able to inflate if necessary) only when the ignition switch is in the ON position. Air bags inflate in the event of certain frontal or side collisions to help protect the occupants from serious physical injury.

There is no single speed at which the airbags will inflate. Generally, airbags are designed to inflate based upon the severity of a collision and its direction. These two factors determine whether the sensors produce an

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electronic deployment / inflation signal.

Airbag deployment depends on a number of factors including vehicle speed, angles of impact and the density and stiffness of the vehicles or objects which your vehicle impacts during a collision. The determining factors are not limited to those mentioned above.

The front airbags will completely inflate and deflate in an instant. It is virtually impossible for you to see the airbags inflate during an accident. It is much more likely that you will simply see the deflated airbags hanging out of their storage compartments after the collision. In addition to inflating in certain side collisions, vehicles equipped with a rollover sensor, side and curtain airbags will inflate if the sensing system detects a rollover. When a rollover is detected, side and curtain airbags will remain inflated longer to help provide protection from ejection, especially when used in conjunction with the seat belts.

Airbags must inflate rapidly. The speed of airbag inflation is a consequence of the extremely short time it takes for the airbag to inflate between the occupant and the vehicle structures before the occupant impacts those structures. This speed of inflation reduces the risk of serious or life threatening injuries, and is thus a necessary part of airbag design. However, the rapid airbag inflation can also cause injuries which can include facial

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abrasions, bruises and broken bones because the inflation speed also causes the airbags to expand with a great deal of force.

There are even circumstances under which contact with the airbag can cause fatal injuries, especially if the occupant is positioned excessively close to the airbag. You can take steps to reduce the risk of being injured by an inflating airbag. The greatest risk is sitting too close to the airbag. An airbag needs about 10 inches of space to inflate. NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) recommends that drivers allow at least 10 inches of space between the center of the steering wheel and their chest.

To reduce the risk of serious injury or death from an inflating airbag, take the following precautions: never place a child restraint in the front passenger seat; always properly restrain children under age 13 in the rear seats of the vehicle; adjust the front passenger's and driver's seats as far to the rear as possible while allowing the driver to maintain full control of the vehicle; hold the steering wheel with hands at the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions; never place anything or anyone between the airbag and the seat occupant. Do not allow the front passenger to place their feet or legs on the dashboard. To prevent objects from becoming dangerous projectiles when the passenger’s airbag inflates, do not install or place any objects like a drink holder, CD holder, stickers, etc… on the front passenger's panel above the

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glove box or where the passenger airbag is located. Do not install a container of liquid air freshener near the instrument cluster or on the instrument panel surface.