

8 **Consumer Information About the Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

460 There are even circumstances under which contact with the airbag can
471 cause fatal injuries, especially if the occupant is positioned excessively close
488 to the air bag. You can take steps to reduce the risk of being injured by an
503 inflating air bag. The greatest risk is sitting too close to the airbag. An airbag
515 needs about 10 inches of space to inflate. NHTSA (National Highway
525 Traffic Safety Administration) recommends that drivers allow at least 10
538 inches of space between the center of the steering wheel and their chest.
552 To reduce the risk of serious injury or death from an inflating airbag, take
564 the following precautions: never place a child restraint in the front passenger
578 seat; always properly restrain children under age 13 in the rear seats of the
592 vehicle; adjust the front passenger's and driver's seats as far to the rear as
604 possible while allowing the driver to maintain full control of the vehicle;
618 hold the steering wheel with hands at the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock positions;
630 never place anything or anyone between the airbag and the seat occupant.
645 Do not allow the front passenger to place their feet or legs on the dashboard.
654 To prevent objects from becoming dangerous projectiles when the
667 passenger's airbag inflates, do not install or place any objects like a drink
679 holder, CD holder, stickers, etc... on the front passenger's panel above the

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