

Airbag Deployment Obstruction

Safety Alert

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Enform

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Description of Incident:

During a recent motor vehicle incident the side airbag was prevented from deploying properly. No injuries were sustained in this incident. Many of today's vehicles have side impact airbags installed on the outside section of the front seats to complement side impact curtains in the event of a side impact collision.



View of partially deployed airbag



View of hook and loop closure opening on seat cover

What Caused It?

An aftermarket seat cover obstructed the deployment of the airbag. In this case, the seat covers were installed in reverse: the driver's seat cover was installed on the passenger side and the passenger's seat cover was installed on the driver side. This placed the hook and loop closure opening on the wrong side of the seat, preventing the airbag from properly deploying.

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- Drivers were required to inspect their seat covers for proper installation and implement any corrective actions

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