

Welcome to Auto-X Times

Every other month the latest information on auto extrication techniques, vehicle anatomy, supplemental restraint systems, alternative fuel vehicles and new tool introductions will fill this newsletter with valuable information and updates to help keep you safe and make your extrications successful. We are always in search of information and real world experiences from our readers, shoot us an e-mail with any questions or input.

autxtimes@holmatro-fs3.com

NEW FS3 TEAM MEMBER

FS3 is excited to announce a new team member to cover Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Randy Babbitt is a 22 year Fire-fighter who works for the Huntington Beach Fire Department, where he has been for 15 years. Randy has an extensive background in auto extrication and technical rescue. He is a registered auto extrication instructor through the State Fire Marshal's Office, where his 10+ year Truck Engineer experiences and training are passed on to students all over the state.

Welcome Randy!



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Holmatro's New Car Technology Cutter

Over the past few years the A, B and C pillars in modern cars have become substantially wider, deeper and thus stronger. These developments have obviously been made to increase occupant safety. However, at the same time they have created a more difficult barrier for rescuers during victim extrication efforts after a collision. To surround and cut these expanding and increasingly complex vehicle constructions, Holmatro has developed a brand new cutter: the 4055 C NCT™

This cutter, the strongest from Holmatro so far, combines a wide blade opening (202 mm) and deeper reach with a significant cutting force of 228,855 lbf (103.8 tons)

The 4055 NCT™ II belongs to Holmatro's second generation of New Car Technology cutters. Its characteristic U-shaped blades are specifically designed to cut the advanced constructions and hard materials found in modern vehicles. Moreover, they do this with far more efficiency and at a much lower working pressure than possible with regular 'General Purpose' type blades. Holmatro's NCT™ blades pull the material into the cutting recess, where the cutting force is at its maximum. This results in a more controlled and smoother cut.

Being part of Holmatro's 4000-series this new cutter is equipped with many innovative features such as i-Bolt. Technology (flat central bolt construction for better access, and superior cutting performance), single hose CORE™ Technology and LED lighting in the carrying handle.

Features & Benefits

- Wider blade opening to deal with larger roof pillars
- Deeper reach for deeper cuts
- Highest cutting force ever!
- UL Listed
- UL Classified to NFPA1936

Cutting force - 228,855 lbf (1018 kN)

Blade opening - 8 5/8" (219 mm)

Cutting capacity (NFPA) -

A8 B7 C7 D8 E8

Weight ready for use (twin-line) -

45 lbs (20.4 kg)

Dimensions (L x W x H) (twin-line) -

35 1/4" x 10 3/8" x 7 5/8" (895 x 264 x 194 mm)

Weight ready for use (CORE) -

43 lbs (19.5kg)

Dimensions (L x W x H) (CORE) -

32 1/2" x 10 3/8" x 7 5/8" (825 x 264 x 194 mm)

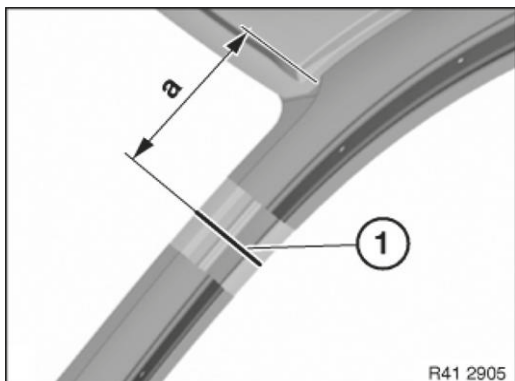


High Strength Steel Pillars

By Bob Brown, Regional Manager, Holmatro-USA

When it comes to the new high strength steels found in some pillars in newer vehicles, there will be some times when you won't be able to cut where you want. Just like any other challenge that is thrown at you, you will eventually overcome such challenges and make your extrication a success. It's our intention to give you some information that will help you if you are faced with a pillar that just won't cut.

When the tool operator has run into an A-pillar that their cutter won't sever; on most cars there is a weak point roughly 3-4 fingers (dimension a) down from where the windshield meets the top of the A pillar. This is the point where the A-pillar is married to the



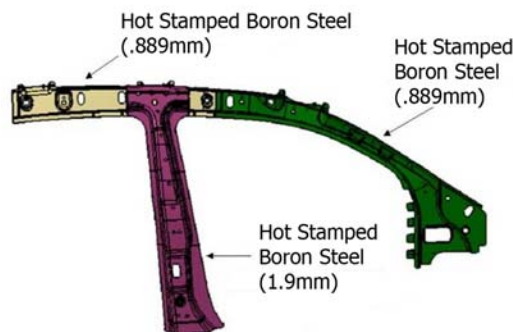
roof rail section (1). If you peel the inner trim material back you will see a difference in appearance at this point, and it will be easier to cut. This is just a general guideline, and it is important to reinforce the need to "expose and investigate" or "peel & peek" before making any cut on pillars, especially to verify there is no gas cylinder inflator in the path.

For B-pillars that have a similar cutting challenge, it may be necessary to use a pie cut into the roof at the top of the B (or cut through the bottom of the B) in order to avoid the ultra high strength gusset that is used to attach the B to the roof rails; The yield strength of 140 ksi converts to 140,000 psi. Remember this is just one layer of the B. It is getting common to place an outer skin of Martensite, and there can be 2-3



additional layers consisting of high, ultra-high, or advanced high strength steel

The graphic below is from an '07 Dodge Caliber. You can see the extensive use of BORON in both of the pillars as well as in the roof rail. Having some work-around options for the tool operator will be critical when challenged by such materials.



The image below is of a 2006 Volvo and gives a graphic representation of their use of high strength steel.



Grey and silver are standard steel and aluminum. Blue is high-strength steel, orange is very-high-strength steel, yellow is extra-high-strength steel, and red is ultra-high-strength steel.

EYE ON IT... Fuel for your tools!



Because of a decade of fuel related issues, there has been a necessity for "fuel management". Recently there has been a decrease in time that fuel stays "fresh" thus leading to motors running poorly or not starting at all. There is nothing a small engine user can do to change the commercial fuel compounds so another solution was sought.

JunkYard Dog Industries in cooperation with VP Racing Fuels developed a petroleum distillate product that is specially formulated for small Emergency Services portable gasoline motors. This unleaded product is desirable especially for these services because of the following features:

- Special blend without ethanol
- Infinite shelf life
- Evaporates clean - no residue
- Use in 4 & 2 stroke motors
- Can be mixed
- Eliminates hard starting
- Top lube built in to extend life
- Eliminate carburetor rebuilding
- Reduce tool testing

**Call your FS3 Representative for
more information and pricing!**

800-388-6607

**WEBSITE
New Stuff!**



The FS3 website is full of useful information about Holmatro Rescue Tools and auto extrication...check it out!

www.holmatro-fs3.com

This Month's Auto-X Challenge

We are challenging all of you to send us examples of your experiences with high strength steel...

Send us an e-mail with picture (if possible) explaining what you ran into - Make & model, challenges, how you worked through it. In return we will send you a FS3-Holmatro t-shirt.

Send to - autoxtimes@holmatro-fs3.com



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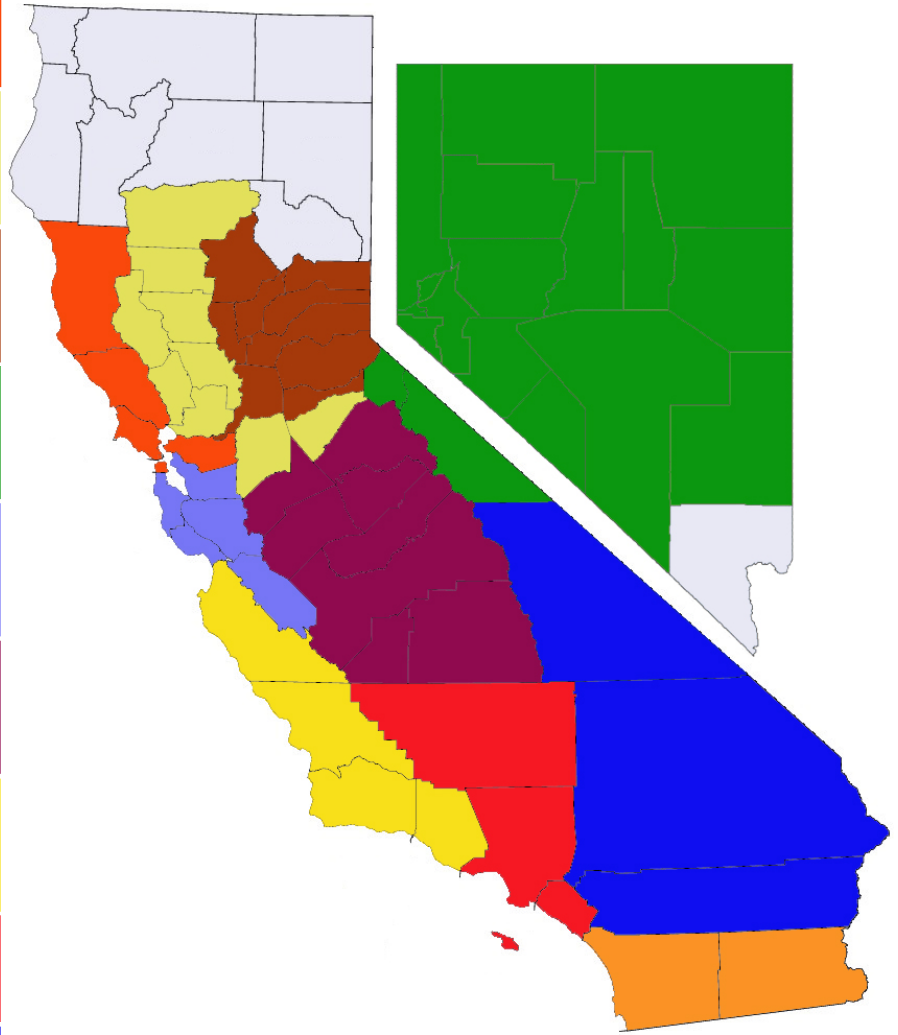
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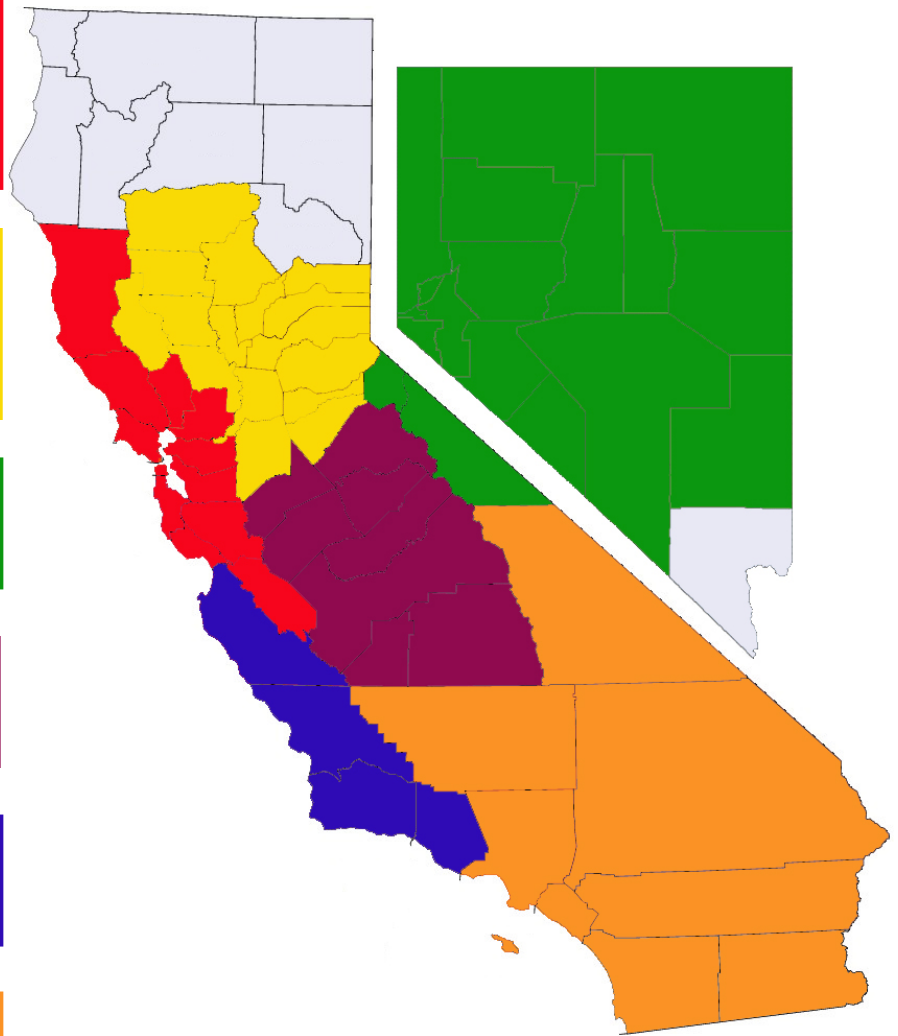
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