



Fire Service Specification & Supply

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Retired Battalion Chief Vacaville FD

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NEWS-UPDATES-PRODUCT INFORMATION-INOVATIONS-ACTION PHOTOS

WHAT'S HOT? 9300 PSI Side Curtain Inflators

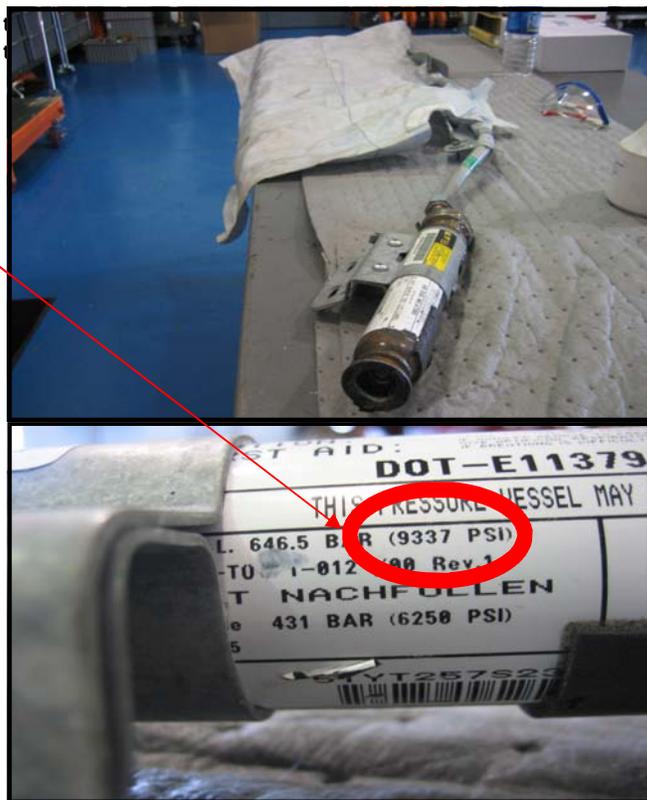
Special points of interest:

- High Pressure Vessels
- Lessons learned: Ref: Armored Truck
- Holmatro I-bolt design
- Holmatro 4050 NCT Heavy Duty Cutter
- Why Test
- Holmatro UL Listed Since 1993
- DPU31 Duo Pump

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Buick introduced in the 2007 Lucerne a new pressure vessel for the their side air bag curtains. 9300 psi pressure vessels now exist in the roof line of new car technology. This is a major change as it is up from the previous 4000 psi series. Today's, firefighters more than ever before must consider their **"personnel safety"** when cutting into new high tech vehicles. Yes, you can purchase books and computer programs that will illustrate where to find all air bag components, however, nothing ensures firefighter safety better then the **"PEEL & PEAK"** procedure. Open and iden-



Ever Cut An Armored Truck?

Article by: Tom Gilbertson, Retired Fire Captain Huntington Beach FD

This past February, I was asked by the Orange City Fire Department to participate in an armored car vehicle extrication drill. The Orange Police Department Swat team donated a surplus retired armored car so their Fire Department could practice on it. It was quite an experience to say the least as not many people get the opportunity to cut on one of these vehicles, and there is not many instances when there is a real



need to do it in the field. Although the metal in the armored car is thick, it is quite soft, allowing the cutters to cut through most of what I attempted to cut. The hinges were able to be cut, but finding a sufficient biting area was very difficult.

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EVER CUT UP AN ARMORED TRUCK?

Orange, Anaheim and Costa Mesa FD's Did!

Article by: Tom Gilbertson

Once the cutters found a suitable biting surface they quickly cut through each hinge with no problem. When the hinges were cut, it was now the spreaders turn to force the door open and release the latch side away. Finding a purchase area with the spreaders was more difficult because of the smooth armored surfaces. As you can see by the photo's the A pillars were cut and a ram was used to force the top away from the hood area. Once again, everything is very heavy and great caution had to be used when spreading the top up and away to prevent slipping and letting the top fall on someone. **Lessons learned from our exercise with this vehicle is that it would have been much easier and faster to gain access to this steel box by using a carbide tipped wood blade in a circular saw to gain entry into the window then remove the victims.** Thanks to the Orange City FD!



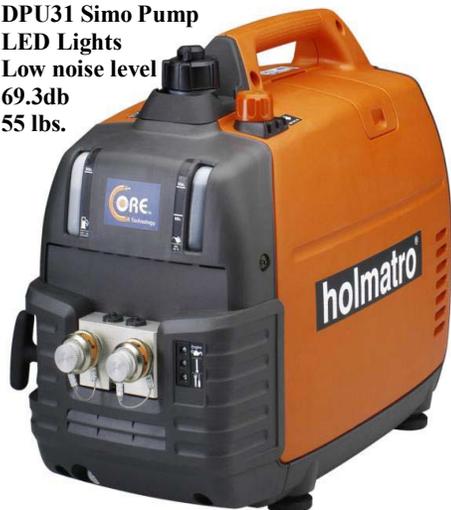


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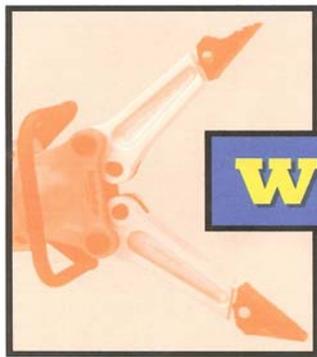
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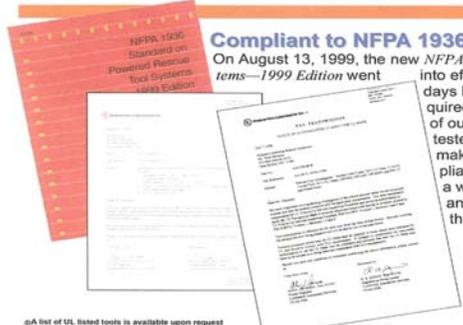
WHY TEST?

"It [UL Rescue Tool Test outline] is a standard to which we can measure a tool's capabilities versus a manufacturer's promotional statements."
Chief Duane K. Spencer
Second Alarmers Rescue Squad
Willow Grove, PA

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