

Why Peel and Reveal - Reminder

Do we always Peel and Reveal a term many rescuers will be aware of with slight variants in terminology around the globe but all with the same meaning?

A systematic approach to vehicle space creation that has been used for many years, so why Peel and Reveal?

Predominantly it's a vehicle preparation technique carried out prior to any space creation or metal relocation to make sure we have checked for SRS systems (inflation cylinders) seat belt brackets and anything that we might want to avoid cutting through if we can, creating efficient and effective cut points with less material for the tools to contend with, avoiding safety systems that could be a risk to all if compromised whilst cutting, spreading or ramming.

I Just wanted to write this as a reminder of how easy it can be to miss safety critical systems within a vehicle.

Having witnessed this on many occasions and fallen foul myself, luckily with no adverse outcomes.

When removing a B-pillar we could all agree we peel and reveal top and bottom if cutters where being used. For this scenario the top cut will be a V-cut. So, the question is would we also peel and reveal the roof lining where the 'V' will go? Sometimes, every time or rarely.

The need to 'Peel and Reveal' everywhere is highlighted in this picture. This vehicle had a roof curtain airbag, we peeled and exposed both ends or the curtain in the A-C Pillars but no inflation cylinder, (you would expect to find it in either of the two) 'never assume'. Locating this was key as we needed to make sure we knew where it was, yes CRS (Crash Recovery Software) from [Moditech](#) would give us this information if we have it available and used it correctly or indeed identified the vehicle correctly.





You can see in the diagrams that the inflation cylinder was in line with the Cant-rail/side header rail above the B-pillar on a side resting vehicle. 'picture rotated for ease of viewing'

As you can clearly see, the position of the inflation cylinder is in a location that we may not expect to see! You would not see this unless you have revealed some of the internal roof lining as the cylinder was well hidden under the roof lining.

There are many variants and thoughts on SRS systems and revealing pillars etc, remember we are not just looking for SRS systems we are looking for other materials and hazards that we want to avoid cutting through if we can. Modern vehicles are very different, don't assume anything. **Always Peel and Reveal.**

Send in your thoughts to rtc.rescue@gmail.com