



ASN Safety Bulletin #61

Single-Seater Driver Extrication



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this latest edition of the FIA Safety Bulletin. This issue is dedicated to single-seater driver extrication. The following guidance has been approved by the FIA Medical Commission and FIA Safety Committee and will detail:

1. The removal of the requirement to extricate the driver in an extractable seat
2. Self-extrication
3. Boa device extrication
4. Short-board extrication
5. Rapid extrication

The removal of the requirement to extricate the driver in the extractable seat

In 1999, the removable extractable seat was introduced following work by Prof Sid Watkins, Jackie Stewart and others. Using this method, drivers are extracted with the assumption of an isolated spinal injury and in the absence of any other pressing medical need. A cervical spine plate is inserted into the top of the seat, a c-spine collar is applied and the seat is lifted out of the car by straps with the driver still in the seat.

Now that pre-hospital immediate care has emerged as a specialty this method has some drawbacks and the medical priority has evolved. Furthermore, the subsequent introduction of the HANS system and forward impact protection HALO device has made seat extrication more complex and less necessary, as there are quicker and more suitable ways to extract a driver.

This method of driver seat extrication has now been withdrawn and medical and rescue teams will no longer remove the seat using this method.

Self-extrication

Drivers who are uninjured or able to get out of the car unaided may do so even in the event of high g-force accidents due to the advanced safety measures that have now been implemented. This may be done under the supervision of the attending medical staff and with their guidance if needed.

Boa device extrication



Watch the Boa device extraction method

The commercially available Boa device is a snake-like padded device with grab handles on the ends. The device is passed around the neck of the driver (who may be wearing a c-collar) and under the arms to allow the driver to be lifted from above and behind. The device pulls tight enough under traction to stabilise the upper spine while not impeding respiration and can assist with a rapid, controlled extrication out of the vehicle.

Short-board extrication



Watch the Short-Board extraction method

This device (Ferno XT or similar) is inserted behind the driver in the seat. The driver is strapped quickly to the device around the chest and head with lifting handles on the device to allow quick and safe guided extraction of the driver from the seat and onto a board or vacuum mattress.

Rapid extrication



Watch the Rapid extraction method

If the driver is facing an immediate danger to life, such as a significant vehicle fire, a hazardous situation or a major injury requiring immediate treatment, rescuers may use the grab handles on the racing suit while managing c-spine inline stabilisation to remove the driver from the vehicle rapidly. The immediate safety concern or medical issue requiring treatment is prioritised.

Further guidance on extrication can be found in [FIA ISC Appendix H Supplement 7](#).

We kindly request your support to promote these updated Guidelines among your event organisers, officials, and volunteers.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving safety across the sport.

Best regards,

FIA Safety Department

If you have any topics you would like us to cover in future bulletins please send your suggestions to the FIA Safety Department.



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