Takata Air Bag Recall

Introduction:

Are you driving a vehicle with a faulty airbag? Millions of Takata air bags are under recall. Over the past few years, there have been more than 100 million airbags recalled worldwide, and 70 million of these have been in the United States. As of February 2020, more than 56 million of these have been replaced leaving millions of vehicles with defective airbags still on the roads.

Discussion Points:

- Millions of vehicles with faulty airbags
- Why are Takata Air Bags being recalled?
- The latest updates
- Recall monitor's website for up-to-date information

Discussion:

What is the problem? Automotive parts company, Takata Corporation, produced faulty airbags that were installed in millions of vehicles. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recalled the airbags that were installed in several makes of vehicles and that was the beginning of the Takata Air Bag Recall Buyback Program. It was determined that the main cause of the problem leading to the recall, was a defect in the metal inflator inside the airbag that caused it to rupture and explode when deployed, injuring or killing the vehicle occupants. To be more specific, a metal canister filled with wafers is at the core of the problem. The airbag inflator contains phase-stabilized ammonium nitrate propellant that becomes unstable over time, and is affected by exposure to high heat and humidity. This defect can cause the inflator housing to over-pressurize and rupture in an accident, producing shrapnel-like metal shards to spray throughout the vehicle.

The latest updates on the recall of the airbags show the problem escalating as more vehicles are added to the recall, including vehicles that have already had the inflators replaced. Many of the airbags that were replaced in the early phase of the recall were replaced with defective airbag inflators, and will need to be replaced a second time. Those defective airbags are to be replaced beginning in March 2020.

NHTSA is urging vehicle owners to protect themselves and others by checking the recall monitor's website for up-to-date information on the airbag inflator replacements.

As always, stay safe out there!