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BMW 3-Series 320i & 320xi (12-14), 325i, 325xi, 330i & 330xi (06) & 328i & 328xi (07-14) Haynes Online Manual

20 Airbag system - general information and precautions

The models covered by this manual are equipped with a driver's airbag mounted in the center of the steering wheel, a passenger's airbag located behind the instrument panel, two side curtain airbags located in each A-pillar/headliner, and two side impact airbags located in each front seat. The airbag system is comprised of the airbag units, impact sensors, the control unit and a warning light in the instrument panel.

The airbag system is triggered in the event of a heavy frontal or side impact above a predetermined force, depending on the point of impact. The airbag(s) is inflated within milliseconds and forms a safety cushion between the cabin occupants and the cabin interior, and therefore greatly reduces the risk of injury. The airbag then deflates almost immediately.

Every time the ignition is switched on, the airbag control unit performs a self-test. The self-test takes approximately 2 to 6 seconds and during this time the airbag warning light on the instrument panel is illuminated. After the self-test has been completed the warning light should go out. If the warning light fails to come on, remains illuminated after the initial period or comes on at any time when the vehicle is being driven, there is a fault in the airbag system. The vehicle should be taken to your dealer immediately for service.

Precautions

Warning:

Failure to follow these precautions could result in accidental deployment of the airbag and personal injury.

Warning:

Never install a memory-saver device, used to preserve PCM memory and radio station presets, when working on or around any of the airbag system components.

Whenever working in the vicinity of the steering wheel, instrument panel or any of the other SRS system components, the system must be disarmed. To disarm the system:

- A. Point the wheels straight ahead and turn the ignition key to the LOCK position.
- B. Disconnect the cable from the negative terminal of the battery.
- C. Wait at least two minutes for the back-up power supply capacitor to be depleted.

Whenever handling an airbag module, always keep the airbag opening (trim side) pointed away from your body. Never place the airbag module on a bench or other surface with the airbag opening facing the surface. Always place the airbag module in a safe location with the airbag opening (trim side) facing up.

Never measure the resistance of any SRS component. An ohmmeter has a built-in battery supply that could accidentally deploy the airbag.

Never use electrical welding equipment on a vehicle equipped with an airbag without first disconnecting the negative battery cable.

Never dispose of a live airbag module. Return it to your dealer for safe deployment, using special equipment, and disposal.

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