American Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Equipment**	**Referral No.** **8.5**	**Subject:** **High Pressure Air Bag Operation**	**Date Issued** **11/03/2008**	**Date Revised**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for use of High Pressure air bags

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline will apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - All officers will ensure that any personnel operating the high-pressure air bags will be properly trained. The person operating the high-pressure air bags will do so in a safe manner.

- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper safety equipment and operating the high-pressure air bags in a safe manner.

Guidelines:

- All personnel operating high-pressure air bags will do so while wearing proper turnout gear
- All personnel operating high-pressure air bags will be properly trained
- Prior to using high-pressure air bags, it must be determined that the scene is safe for their operation. This includes but is not limited to looking for downed power lines, gas leaks or other hazardous materials.
- The Incident Commander will coordinate the placement of Rescue 1981
- The driver of Rescue 1981 will be responsible for assembling the equipment needed for high-pressure air bag operations
- The vehicle being worked on will be properly stabilized prior to using high-pressure air bags
- Measures must be taken to ensure for the safety of any victims in the vehicle
- The high-pressure air bags will be properly positioned prior to being inflated
- Care must be used to avoid jagged or hot surfaces that may damage the air bags
- Plywood sheeting should be used to protect against hot or jagged surfaces
- Cribbing is used in conjunction with the air bags when lifting an object

- As the bags are inflated, cribbing shall be placed to assist in supporting the weight of the object and ensure safety should the air bags fail
- At no time shall anyone place themselves under any object supported solely by air bags
- The person/s operating the high-pressure air bags must keep a clear line of communication open with other personnel on scene in case of unforeseen problems
- At no time shall the high-pressure air bags be used in a manner they are not designed for
- When using high-pressure air bags, be aware of air bag kick back, shifting of the vehicle or any other sudden unexpected movement
- Any damage or malfunction to the system shall be reported to an officer and a repair slip filled out
- The high-pressure air bags shall be cleaned and checked after each use to ensure they are ready for use
- Air bags shall not be used for stabilization