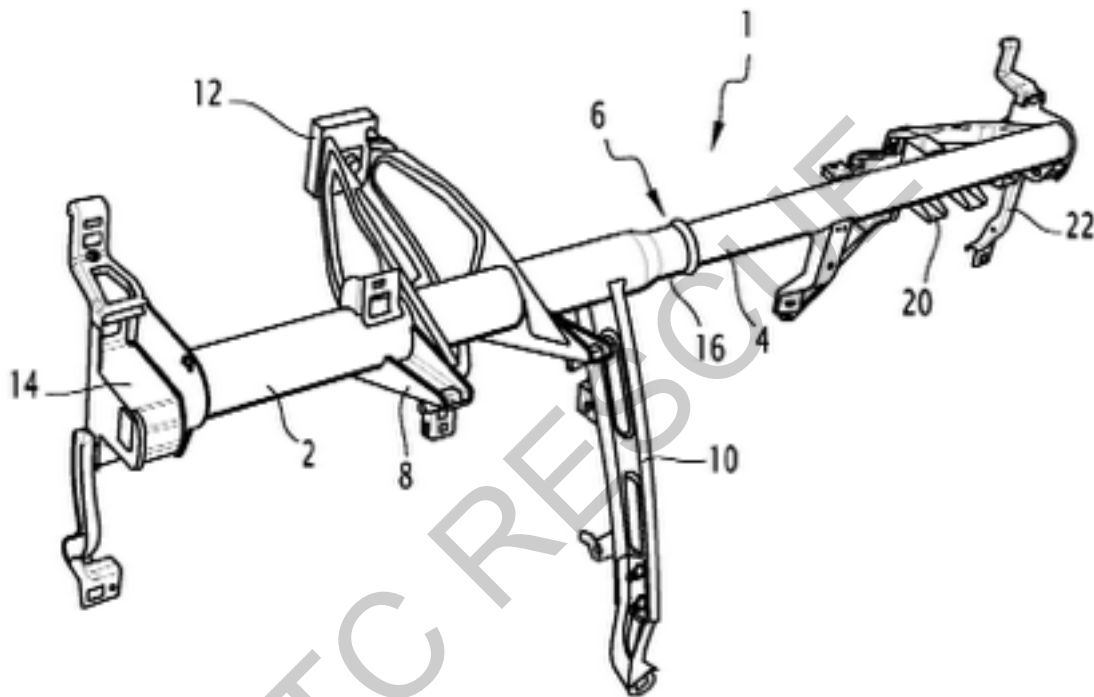


Dash Relocation Problems

The construction of a vehicle varies greatly from model to model. Most of us will know that many vehicles have incorporated into their dash a strengthening cross member mainly of tubular steel connected from A pillar to A pillar 3 quarters of the way up from the sill. In some cases this will also have a vertical piece of steel that is either bolted or welded to the transmission tunnel straight down the middle of the dash or just offset.



Here you are able to see some of the structures we can expect to find and the locations, it must be made clear that the precise location will vary depending on the model and year of the vehicle.

During a recent training session we wanted to carry out a quick dash lift, from past experience we know that the dash will move up fairly quickly with ease in most cases. During this particular evolution it was quite noticeable that there was a fare amount of resistance from the steering column area and also middle area of the dash. The front A post section raised with ease but the area we need to relocate to allow better extrication space was reduced compared to past practices.

It became very apparent that a vertical dash member was causing the problem. We were trying to push against a tubular bar connected to the transmission tunnel which was holding the middle section of dash in place, and doing a good job at that.

You can see here the issue we faced.



You can see the bolts holding it in place in these pictures, one option would be to unbolt or cut the post, is this a realistic option? Time frames will have to play a big part in the decision making processes along with access to this area depending on vehicle and casualty location/orientation.

We did manage to create the space needed, however this additional dash construction could have a detrimental effect on this technique at times, if you ever wonder why a dash lift or roll is not quite working how you would expect, this is one of the problems that may be working against you.

I hope you have found this of use? As always I welcome your comments.

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