



Newsletter: 606/2018  
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Distribution: All ambulance members  
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## Ambulance Takata airbags remain unsafe

There have been [some media reports](#) about the immense WHS risk associated with Takata Airbags that some NSW Ambulances have fitted.

We have been informed that there are several vehicles sitting in at least one Metro Plant room that have been recalled by the manufacturer but are still in operation.

Given the fault in the airbags includes sending out shrapnel towards vehicle occupants, we must take this safety issue very seriously. Ambulances are operated in an emergency environment and are highly likely to have the 'trivial' collision required to set these faulty bags off.

We have written to Ambulance this afternoon asking for a full report on any audit they have completed (or an explanation as to why they did not make the audit known to staff). This issue has been known for many months, so we have also requested evidence that NSW has had all operating vehicles retrofitted or retired by now. If NSW hasn't completed the recall schedule, we'll expect an explanation as to why it hasn't occurred, and why there are still vehicles in plant rooms that are deemed unsafe.

In the meantime, ask your manager about the vehicle you are expected to work in, and if it has been cleared as safe on this website: <https://ismyairbagsafe.com.au/>.

If the vehicle still has a faulty airbag, demand a replacement vehicle. It is our strong advice to **refuse to use an unsafe Ambulance**. We'll back you if you do so.

We'll keep you posted as we get information back from NSW.

Stuart Hatter  
**Divisional Manager Ambulance**