

QuickCuts 1

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HOW TO REMOVE A SLIDING DOOR

Sliding doors are found on many MPV's and are designed to facilitate easy access to the rear passenger compartment of the vehicle. This is especially useful in tight parking spaces such as found in shopping malls.

There are two key pieces of information that you need to be aware of when dealing with a sliding door:

1. Identification

2. Vehicle design

Once you are aware of these then the rest is simple.

In training exercises most crews fail to recognize sliding doors in the initial scene assessment. Therefore the number one most important factor is to identify that you are working with a sliding door.

You should also be aware of some newer vehicles with electric sliding doors such as the Chrysler Grand Voyager and a number of Japanese models (exotic imports in the UK). You should attempt to open the door/s of these vehicles at the same time that you power down the electric window before you disconnect the battery.
N.B. When forcing a sliding door you should always adhere to your department's protocol on working around side airbags.

1. Identification - when you arrive at an incident you will only be able to see 2 landmarks that will enable you to identify a sliding door.

a. First look for 2 adjacent door handles

b. Then confirm this by checking for the mid track underneath the rear window.....

Yes?.....then you are now working with a sliding door.

UpperTrack

Upper Roller

Mid Track

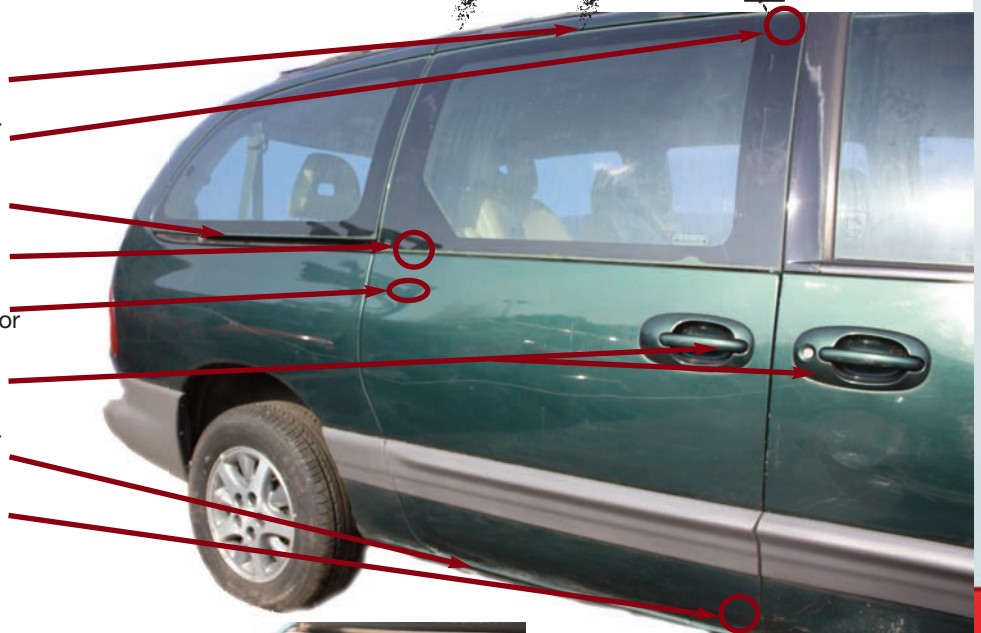
Mid Roller

Door Lock

Adjacent Door Handles

Lower Track

Lower Roller



2. Vehicle design

a. A conventional door lock is situated behind the handle, however, on a sliding door the lock is situated at the opposite end of the door to the handle. This is in exactly the same place as on a traditional door at the rear, unfortunately the door handle at the front will usually confuse crews that are not aware of this configuration.

b. The door is mounted on 3 tracks attached to the vehicle by 3 hinged rollers. You will need to know their location as they will not be visible with the door closed and all 3 will have to be detached from the vehicle in order to remove the door

It is easy to see the location of the lock and the 3 door attachments with the door in the open position as in the **pictures right**, however, at an incident the door will be closed and you will not have the luxury of this viewpoint.





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Step 1

Above

Once the vehicle is stabilized and the glass managed then open the shut line at the rear of the sliding door - spreaders may be a good choice if there is no casualty in the back seat row



Step 2

Above

Now that you know the location of the lock then burst the lock and take out the mid roller at the same time.



Step 3

Above

Once you've burst the lock then attempt to slide the door open as far back as possible - this will take the door past the normal opening opening to the point where it was initially installed by the manufacturer



Step 4

Right

Then simply lift the door off the top track followed by the bottom track



Step 5

If due to the accident damage the door will not slide back then simply move the rear of the door away from the vehicle enough to get your cutters in and cut through the attachments at the top and bottom.

.....and that's the Quick Cuts for a sliding door.



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