



MIKES CORVETTE CORNER

During the next two months "Mike's Corvette Corner" is going to focus on tools and select items that every Corvette owner should have in his Corvette. First on the list is what I call the "Emergency Survival Tool"

Since most of us live here in Michigan (despite the bad roads) we are surrounded by lakes. Even if you go to Florida in the winter you are surrounded by water. And every year people run off the road into a canal, or the waters edge of some lake. And unfortunately some drown during rescue attempts. Many of them because they were trapped in their car.

With the electronics in today's cars, once water hits the control unit, you are done. In most cases the system shorts out in seconds leaving you with no power to lower the window or hit the power door lock button to open the door so you can escape. Some emergencies involve thinking up a strategy; others require immediate and instinctive action. For the latter, prepare yourself with a car survival kit.

The tool I recommend is pictured on the last page of this article. Many of these tools come with a mounting bracket, which affords you the convenience of permanent mounting so you know where it is at all times. Or like me, simply put it in the glove compartment.

On one end is a pointed hammer head which is used for shattering the side window, and in some cases the rear window. All it takes is a sharp blow to the corner or the upper edge of the window and it shatters allowing you to escape. At the lower portion of this tool is a cutting device. This can be used to cut the seat belt. If the seat belt is a little taut, it seems to work faster.

Its also a good idea to keep one of these in the family car when you have kids or grand kids in a child seat. I have actually received a letter from a woman when I worked at Brand X telling me it was the dumbest tool she has ever seen. But one day, she was involved in a minor rear end collision and fuel was leaking from her car. She had a toddler in the rear child seat and panicking to get him out made the fastening system on the seat become more tighter. Then she remembered that "dumb" tool and cut the straps. Fortunately no one was injured.

You can purchase one of these on line or at many of the automotive parts stores. But remember, you get what you pay for. I hope none of us ever has to use one, but if we do, we know where its at!

Mike

