

## North Carolina State Police Purchase FIRE Panels

**August 1, 2003** - The North Carolina State Police recently purchased 600 FIRE Panels to help make their Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors (CVPI) safer from fuel tank fires. These FIRE Panels will be delivered to the NC State Police in August.

Nationwide, at least 16 Police Officers have died, and many more have been burned or barely escaped when fire engulfed their CVPIs. In each case, their CVPI was struck in a severe, rear-end collision that caused fuel to leak from their CVPI's fuel tank and then ignite. In Arizona alone, three Police Officers have been killed and one other severely burned in CVPI fires in just the past few years. In March of 2002, FIRE Panel LLC of Scottsdale, Arizona, became aware of these numerous deaths of Police Officers and subsequently developed a patented, fire suppression panel to address this issue.

The FIRE Panel is a fire suppression product that mounts quickly and simply over the axle side of the CVPI fuel tank. In the event of a high-speed crash, as the fuel tank is forced into the axle and other structural members, pointed objects must first penetrate the FIRE Panel before they can get to the fuel tank. When the FIRE Panel is penetrated, it shatters and releases a "cloud" of fire suppressing powder which "inerts" the area around the fuel tank. By inerting the area, the fuel/air mixture cannot ignite. This dramatically reduces the risk of a fire.

Just this past May, at least four officers were involved in collisions when their CVPIs were hit in the rear at high speed. All four of the CVPIs were equipped with the Ford plastic shield "fix", yet all four had their fuel tanks punctured and the leaking fuel catch fire. Unfortunately, two Police Officers were in their CVPIs at the time of these crashes and lost their lives to the *fire*.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of the FIRE Panel, the world's first high-speed crash test was conducted where a CVPI was hit in the rear at 81.9 mph. Aside from the elevated speed at impact, the testing differentiated itself by using actual gasoline in the fuel tank of the CVPI. In this remarkable test, the damage was very severe, yet there was not a fire!

Since its introduction in early 2003, numerous Police Departments across the country have added the FIRE Panel to help make their CVPIs safer. For more information on the FIRE Panel and how it can inexpensively protect your fleet of CVPIs, contact Dennis Pappas, Law Enforcement Sales Specialist at FIRE Panel LLC, toll-free (866) 607-0747 or by e-mail at [pappas@firepanelllc.com](mailto:pappas@firepanelllc.com).

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