

ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION

NEW TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The photographs on this page illustrate some of the equipment we have acquired within the past 1-1/2 years, all of which is used regularly in the course of our accident reconstruction and vehicle analysis work.

Figure 6 demonstrates the use of our electronic distance measuring (EDM) equipment. The Ultralyte permits detailed mapping of accident scenes, with 3-dimensional mapping capability. This system is particularly useful for detailed accident scenes featuring significant highway curvature or complicated intersections. In the past year, we have found ingenious ways to make use of the laser in conjunction with conventional measuring equipment, utilizing the best features of each. The software accompanying the laser system

also enables us to read and use laser measurements from police agencies which also use the system. An additional benefit of the Ultralyte is the ability to obtain spot speed readings of vehicles at accident scenes.

Figure 7 shows the Vetronix Crash Data Retrieval (CDR) system at work. With this tool, we are able to download vehicle operational data from the "black box" incorporated into the airbag systems of late model (1995 forward) General Motors vehicles.

This data is retained in the memory of the electronic control module (ECM) when an airbag deployment or "near deployment" takes

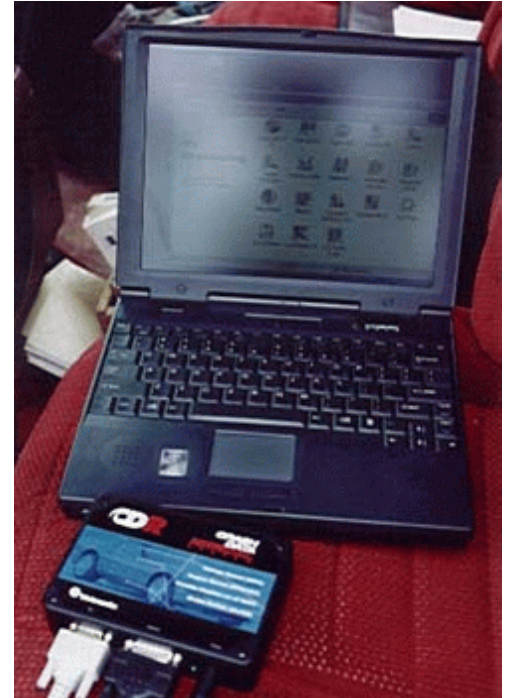


Figure 7



Figure 6

place. At such times, the module stores data indicating the vehicle speed, engine speed, throttle position, brake application and driver's seatbelt usage, for a period of 5 seconds before the collision. The change of speed during a collision is also displayed. Data retrieved in this manner is especially useful in reconstructing accidents.

It is expected that similar data from Ford vehicles will soon be accessible using this system.

More recently, we have purchased several digital cameras, and have begun using them where appropriate.

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