

VISUAL INSPECTION

A thorough visual inspection is the second step in accurate and complete structural damage analysis. The purpose of the visual inspection is to locate and identify specific indicators of structural misalignment. Although visual indicators are not a guarantee that structural damage is present, structural damage does tend to cause predictable patterns of body panel misalignment. That predictability provides credibility and value to the visual inspection process described in the following pages.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this unit you should be able to:

1. Understand the relationship of the principles of Collision Theory to the visual inspection process.
2. Perform a thorough Visual Inspection on a damaged vehicle by following the procedures described for each of the four basic collision types.
3. Complete a Visual Inspection diagram and interpret the visual clues to predict the structural damage they might indicate.
4. Use basic damage analysis terminology when completing a visual inspection.
5. Understand the design characteristics that contribute to collision reactions and the visual inspection of structurally damaged vehicles.
6. Understand the limitations of a Visual Inspection.