

HIGHWAY SAFETY

Subaru Forester Best Performer In Side Impact Crash Tests

(NAPSA)—Safety is no accident. This maxim was proven in the performance of one popular small SUV during its side impact crash tests. The Subaru Forester earned the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's (IIHS) highest rating in the most recent of these tests. The Forester was also the only vehicle of the 12 small sport-utility vehicles tested that earned the IIHS' highest rating in both the side impact crashworthiness evaluation and 40 mph frontal offset crash test.

"The performance of the Subaru Forester, which was the only small SUV to earn a double 'Good' in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's new side impact crash test and its frontal offset test, demonstrates what can be accomplished when a manufacturer makes safety a priority," said IIHS President, Brian O'Neill.

In the IIHS new side impact test, vehicles are struck in the side by a deformable barrier moving at 30 miles an hour. Based on the results of this test, the Institute assigns each vehicle a rating of good, acceptable, marginal or poor based on how well the vehicle protected the dummies seated in the driver's and rear passenger's seats and how well the integrity of the structure was maintained. The Institute's side impact test is especially demanding of a vehicle's structure, as a relatively small area of the vehicle's side is required to manage



The Subaru Forester earned the IIHS highest rating, giving it the distinction of being the best small SUV they've ever tested.

the crash energy.

This is the third consecutive good rating for Forester.

"The Institute's findings demonstrate our dedication to providing our owners with the latest advancements in safety technology that further enhance occupant safety," said T. K. Saito, chairman and president and CEO, Subaru of America, Inc. "We are pleased to say that all 2003 model year Subaru vehicles tested by the IIHS, including the 2003 Forester, Legacy and Impreza, have earned the Institute's highest rating as well as the 'best pick' distinction in frontal crashes."

Subaru Forester models include many standard safety features, including a dual-stage deployment passenger front airbag, standard front seat head/chest side-impact airbags, and a lot more.

For more information visit www.subaru.com.