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MEDIA ADVISORY

Newly Developed Roof Crush Test Proves Existence of Safer Vehicles That Can Withstand Rollover Crashes

***Auto Safety Groups Reveal Dynamic, Real-World Test That Industry Doesn't
Want You to See and Government Doesn't Want to Require***

WHAT: **Press conference** to showcase the newly developed Jordan Rollover System (JRS), a test device for analyzing rollover crash protection under dynamic conditions. The JRS was developed by Acen Jordan, a California-based test device maker, and Donald Friedman, an engineer and president of California-based Xprts LLC. Rollovers account for only four percent of crashes but represent 35 percent of all occupant fatalities – needlessly killing 10,800 and injuring more than 16,000 people per year.

Rollover crashes could easily be more survivable if vehicles were required to have stronger roofs, but the auto industry has long argued against this. Some vehicles like the Volvo XC90 have stronger roofs, but Volvo has kept its detailed test results secret under pressure from Ford. The press conference will release the first detailed dynamic roof crush test results of a Volvo XC90.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is in the process of issuing a roof strength standard for rollover safety as required by SAFETEA-LU, the 2005 highway bill. Public Citizen and the Center for Auto Safety maintain that all vehicles should be required to pass a dynamic, repeatable test that assesses vehicle performance in conditions that closely match real-world rollover crashes and can be used to look at many important systems – including the roof, seat belts and side curtain air bags – simultaneously. The JRS is just such a test.

The demonstration of the JRS will include a video of the crash tests conducted in October in California for the Center for Auto Safety by the JRS developers. The videos will include both vehicles that performed well and poorly.

WHEN: 10 a.m. EST, Tuesday, Dec.12

WHO: Joan Claybrook, president of Public Citizen
Don Friedman, president of Xprts LLC and renowned engineer
Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety

WHERE: Morton Auditorium, GWU Campus, 805 21st Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20052-0031

INFO: Live video stream of the press conference and coordinates for a satellite feed for broadcast will be available at <http://www.autosafety.org/article.php?scid=37&did=1255>.

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Public Citizen (www.citizen.org) is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. The Center for Auto Safety (www.autosafety.org) is a Washington-based nonprofit organization advocating auto safety and quality.