

Text by Paul Rachwal • Photos provided by IAC

In our quest for ever-faster ETs and higher cornering speeds, it's easy to get caught up in improving the performance of our ride. Rarely do we spend our hard-earned money and effort on improving the safety of those same high-performance machines.

Proper safety gear is what separates the professionals from the rest. Building the fastest car on the track may be your top goal, but it becomes pointless and hazardous without the proper safety equipment. Should your fast but unsafe vehicle set a record at the track, it will end up disqualified once a post race inspection reveals the necessary safety equipment required for the ET is missing.

Be it a parachute or, more likely, a roll cage, the requirements differ between individual tracks and sanctioning bodies. All in all, it's not a pretty sight to see a race driver get their trophy taken away due to a technicality.

The International Automotive & Custom (IAC) crew knew this during the buildup of their Integra drag car project, and since the IAC guys are going all-out and aim to break records, they will need to pass many stringent inspections. This is why they contacted Racer's Choice, Inc. (RCI) a company well known for specializing in safety equipment for over 20 years.

RCI stepped up and contributed to the IAC Integra project with many of their safety products that include a five-point Platinum harness, window net, one-gallon fuel cell and engine diaper.

While the function of each is pretty straightforward, let's explain the purpose of the engine diaper. If you blow up your engine or transmission while flying down the 1,320, these are designed to prevent what could be a serious mess. Apart from protecting the driver and spectators from any flying chunks of hot / burning metal, the engine blanket also speeds up the process of cleaning any oil, coolant, piston and block bits that result from an accident on the strip.

There is no doubt that IAC's Integra will be a serious race car once it's completed, especially since it's now prepared for any possible misfortunes that may come its way. The IAC guys must have taken to heart the saying, "If you don't plan to fail, don't fail to plan." **PAS**



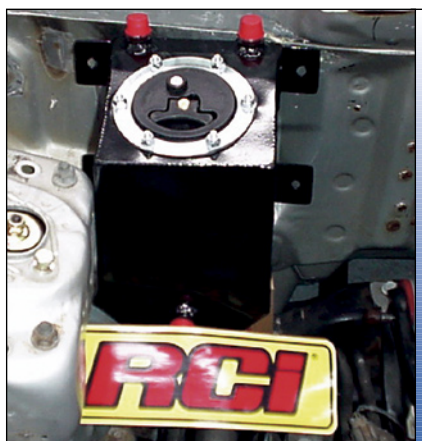
RCI's five-point Platinum Harness.



Here's IAC's "mystery driver," all strapped in.



RCI's window net keeps your noggin' in the relative safety of the roll-cage reinforced cockpit.



RCI's Fuel Cell not only saves weight, but it virtually makes fires and explosions impossible.



The engine diaper should win you a lot of friends if disaster ever strikes. It straps under your oil pan and can absorb most of the oil from a blown engine as well as gather engine parts, possibly preventing a tire blowout and further damage.