

Steering

Energy-absorbing Steering Column

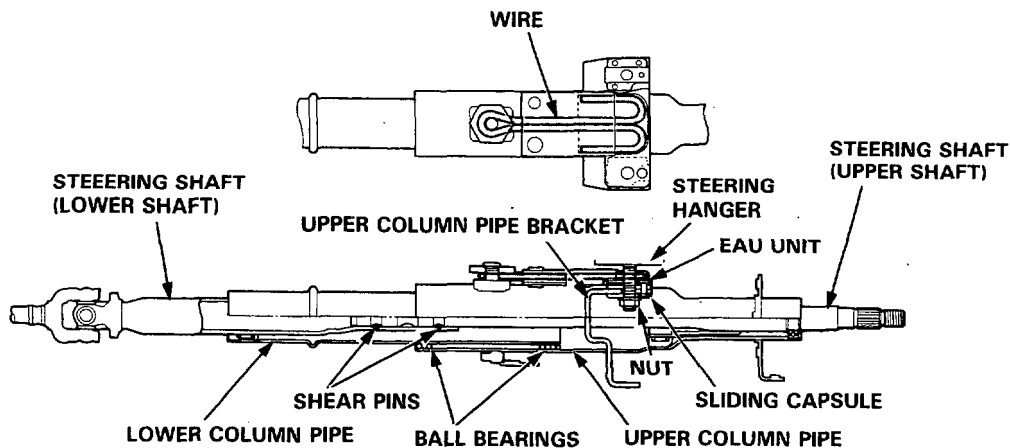
Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) model only.

The steering shaft of the steering column is double structured with the lower shaft, integrated with the steering joint, and the upper shaft that are connected with the shear pins.

Ball and needle bearings are used to support the steering shaft to reduce friction and improve steering feel. The steering column pipe is also double structured with the upper column pipe and lower column pipe that are assembled via the ball bearings. The upper column pipe bracket is held by the EAU unit which is secured to the steering hanger stud bolt with the nut. (On collision, the bracket can be slid forward.) The lower column pipe is fixed to the body by the lower holder.

As an external force or impact is applied to the steering wheel, the shear pins break and the upper shaft is forced forward in the lower shaft. The external force or impact is then absorbed as the EAU unit wire is straightened (points of bending are changed) by the upper column pipe of the steering column which slides forward clear of the sliding capsule of the EAU when the external force or impact is applied.

<Under normal condition>



<At time impact>

