



*SERIOUS HEAD PROTECTION*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Bell Promotes Use Of Visor Panel At Indy 500**

Bell Racing USA LLC, the world's premier auto racing Helmet Company, is supplying its sponsored drivers competing in the 2014 Indianapolis 500 with an updated visor panel designed for the all carbon, FIA8860 homologated Bell HP7.

The updated Bell visor panel was put to the test in Indy Car at the inaugural Grand Prix of Indianapolis when flying debris from a massive accident at the start of the race made contact with A.J. Foyt Enterprises driver Martin Plowman's Bell HP7 helmet. Plowman was uninjured in the incident and the visor panel remained fully in place.

Bell has dedicated many hours of research and collaboration with the FIA on the design, function and performance of the Zylon visor panel and was the first company to debut the panel in Formula One in 2011, one year before the panel was mandatory in January 2012. The panel was first used by Bell drivers in the Indy Car Series in 2013. To assure the panel adheres properly to the shield, Bell uses an adhesive material with surface tension properties that work in conjunction with the polycarbonate substrate used in Bell's racing shields to create a secure bond able to withstand the conditions of Formula One and Indy Car.

"Bell Racing fully supports the use of the visor panel in the Indy Car series and at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway because of the additional protection it provides the driver," said Kyle Kietzmann, President of Bell Racing USA. "We have not encountered any incident where the Bell panel has come loose or detached from the helmet during competition. Bell has developed a specific method to attach the visor panel and it's up to every brand to define how to adapt the panel to the helmet. While other brands may struggle to develop a reliable visor panel system, Bell is confident in our solution and so are our drivers."



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Bell sponsored drivers including three time Indy 500 champion Helio Castroneves, F1 World Champion and Indy 500 winner Jacques Villeneuve, four time Champ Car Series champion Sebastien Bourdais, Indy 500 winner Buddy Lazier and Indy Car series drivers Graham Rahal, Marco Andretti, Ed Carpenter, Carlos Munoz, Martin Plowman, Pippa Mann, Sebastian Saavedra and Josef Newgarden will use the Bell visor panel in the 2014 Indianapolis 500.

Current F1 drivers using the BELL HP7 with visor panel include World Champion Kimi Raikkonen, Romain Grosjean; Pastor Maldonado, Esteban Gutierrez, Jean Eric Vergne, Simona di Silvestra, Marcus Ericson, Sam Bird, Daniel Juncadella

Since 1954, more champions in all forms of motorsports have worn Bell than any other brand. Bell auto racing helmets are sold to professional and amateur drivers through a network of specialty safety equipment dealers and distributors, as well as individual retail customers. Bell Racing USA is located in Champaign, Illinois. Information on Bell Racing products is available at [www.bellracing.com](http://www.bellracing.com)

Bell's products are designed and built to exceed industry specifications for helmets including standards developed and published by Snell, SFI and the FIA.

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