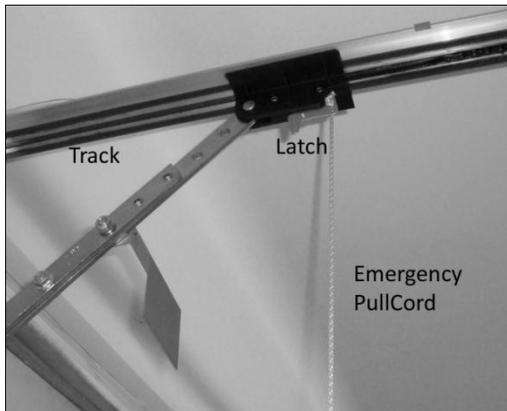


Garage Door Safety

I have written about garage doors and their maintenance before but Frank Metz of Sunrise CT. gave me an article from the National Safety Council that has some very important points. First and foremost is about personal safety. It starts off reminding us to never let children play with the doors or the remote controls. Kids think it's great to "beat the door" or jump over the light beam while the door is closing. Even some adults I know try this occasionally. This is a good way of ending up on your bottom part (you know I wanted to write something else) or in the hospital with a broken leg or hip. And who knows, the way health care is going they may have to shoot you! You should always keep the door in sight until it is

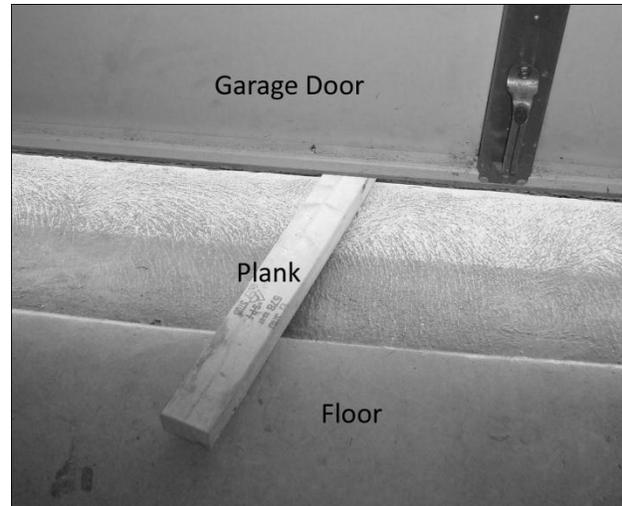


fully open or closed, especially if there are children or pets nearby. Keep hands and fingers away from a moving door also to prevent them from getting caught and crushed between the panels or guide wheels. You should also know how to operate the emergency release in case someone gets trapped under the door. Just pull straight down on the

Emergency Cord Handle to release. To reset the latch, move the door so the latch is somewhere near the middle of its run, pull the cord so the latch moves towards the motor and operate the motor with the button or your remote. As the mechanism travels over the latch it will 'lock' in automatically.

Test for balance – With the door closed release the mechanism that connects the door to the opener. At this point you should be able to easily open the door and when it gets to about 3 or 4 feet off the floor it should stay in that position. This would mean that your counter balance springs are in adjustment. If not, have it adjusted by a qualified service person. Not being adjusted correctly will put a strain on the motor and shorten its life.

Reversal Test – There is a mechanism in the door motor that senses resistance before the limit switch tells the door it is in the fully closed position. When it senses this resistance, it automatically reverses the door direction in case someone or something was in the way. To test this feature, open the door and put a wooden 2 x 4 lying flat on the floor where the center of the



door would be when closed. Close the door, when the door hits the 2 x 4 it should automatically reverse. If this feature is not working call a qualified repair person.

Photo eye or sensor beam – Usually if the sensor beams located on both sides of the door opening near the bottom are not aligned the door will not close. It *will* open, but it will not close. Most of the time the sensors get knocked out of alignment by bringing in the garbage can or by sneaking your bike in past the car. This bends the bracket and prevents them from “looking” at each other. Usually if your door closes the system is working, but to check it, hold a piece of cardboard or the newspaper in front of one of the sensors while the door is closing. The door should immediately reverse itself. If it doesn’t, you can try to align them but if not, you got it... call a qualified repair person. Tip. Run a pair of wires from your motor where the garage door button is connected and install a second push button high up near the front of your garage. Then if you are outside and you want to shut the door, just reach up and press the button.