The Extended Ride Height Option (ERH) is featured on H2s that come from the factory equipped with the Electronically Controlled Air Suspension System. It allows the driver to raise the rear body area of the truck approximately two inches over the standard ride height with the push of a button. This can be very beneficial during off-road maneuvers where ground and body clearance is critical.

A closer look at the components involved

1) Air springs – In place of the conventional springs
2) Compressor – Fills the air springs
3) Drier – Removes moisture from air before entering system
4) Valves – Allow intake and exhaust of air into system
5) Height sensors – Communicates the level of truck to the Air Suspension module
6) Air Suspension Module – Makes all decisions for height control
7) Plumbing – Required to link compressor/valves to air springs

All mentioned components are located underneath in the rear of the vehicle. Sensitive components have a metal plate protecting them.

During normal operation (auto leveling), the height sensors will signal the module as to the load in the vehicle. The nice thing about this system is that it’s totally automatic. As weight is added or removed from the truck, the system will increase or exhaust air to bring the truck to the correct level. Side-to-side load variations are also monitored as the system can add or remove air from either air spring.

Operating the ERH button

Extended Ride Height is accomplished by simply pushing the ERH button on the dash. As the system is filling and rising, the small LED (light emitting diode) located next to the button will flash. When the maximum height is reached, (this may take up to a minute) the LED stays on. At maximum height, approximately two inches of frame to ground clearance is gained at the rear, along with approximately 3 inches of bumper height. Thus, departure and break-over angles on the truck will be increased allowing for more off-road mobility. When it’s time to lower the truck, push the button again and the light will flash as the truck is lowered. No LED indicates the system is back to auto leveling.

Notes on operation

• The ERH button will work in all three transfer case ranges.

• The ERH will not engage over 40 mph. If the system is engaged and the driver exceeds 40 mph, it will revert back to auto leveling. This is for safety; to keep the center of gravity at an...
appropriate level.

• The engine must be running. The doors and lift-gate must also be closed in order to have compressor operation.

• It is normal to hear compressor operation from the rear when you push the button, or periodically as the system adjusts the truck to standard ride height.

• Sounds from valves switching or air being released are also considered normal operation.

• The system monitors itself and will alert the driver through the DIC (driver information center) with a message of SERVICE AIR SUSPENSION if there is a problem.

• As stated in the owner’s manual, do not use the ERH feature when towing a trailer.

Train yourself on the ERH system. First read about it in your owner’s manual and follow all the safety recommendations. Next, try it out in your driveway before you use it in an off-road situation. Measure the changes in the height for yourself, and you can start to get an understanding of the angles at work during an off-road event. Finally, familiarize yourself with all the normal operating characteristics of the Air Suspension System.

The HUMMER line of vehicles has systems that make them the most capable off-road wheeled vehicles in the world. Make sure you’re getting all you can from your truck by reading your owner’s manual and following the recommended maintenance program.