

Dealing with a Broken Door Handle

We have all been dealing with a hard to open door on our Tiffin coaches. In most cases it takes a little effort but we get the door to open. But, what do you do if while pulling on that hard to unlatch door the door handle breaks and now you have a handle in your hand and the door is not open?

After some thought and listening to others who have had similar problems I decided to document what I will do if faced with this problem. Everyone may not have the tools necessary to perform the operation I am going to describe, but usually someone in the campground or area does. In most cases the local assistance will not cost you any money like you would need to pay out to a locksmith. Because what I am going to describe is what the locksmith is probably going to do anyway. So this may save you some time and money.

Below is a picture of my coach door, door handle and lower lock. Not the deadbolt lock that is a different issue.



As we most have found it is most easy to stand to the left of the door and pull the handle to the left to release the door latch. Opening the door even works better if you are able to push against the door while pulling on the door handle.

At this point we have attempted to open the door as we have done hundreds of times in the past, but the door handle breaks off in our hand. The door did not open and now I have no way to release the door latch. In the next picture I have moved my good unbroken door handle out of the way to show where you need to drill a hole in the door mechanism which will then allow you access to release the door latch. Make sure the door lock has been unlocked as it can prevent moving the door latch by this method.



After drilling the hole and opening the door you will be able to secure the door by locking the deadbolt until such time as you are able to get the door mechanism replaced.

After drilling the hole a screw driver can be inserted into the hole and then pressure applied to the latching mechanism which will release the door bolt. Below is a picture of the inside of my coach's door lock. The red circle is where the drill bit will cut through the door. After the hole is drilled a screwdriver can be inserted in the hole. Exert pressure toward the rear of the coach with the screwdriver handle and the door latch will release which will allow the door to be opened.



Again, after this operation the door can be opened until a new door lock mechanism can be installed by using a screwdriver, or similar tool.

Make sure to use the deadbolt lock to secure the coach until the door handle and lock have been repaired.