■ENERGY ABSORBING MECHANISM

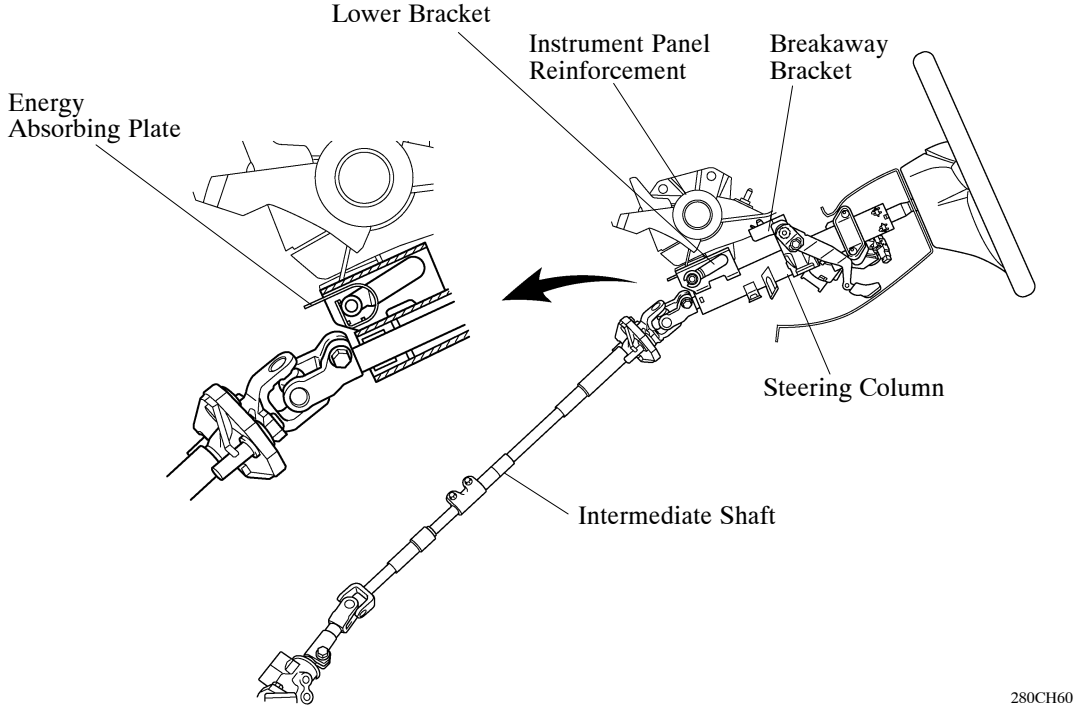
1. General

The energy absorbing mechanism in the steering column consists of a lower bracket, a breakaway bracket, an intermediate shaft and an energy absorbing plate. The steering column is mounted onto the instrument panel reinforcement via the lower bracket and the breakaway bracket. The steering column and the steering gear box are connected by the contractile intermediate shaft.

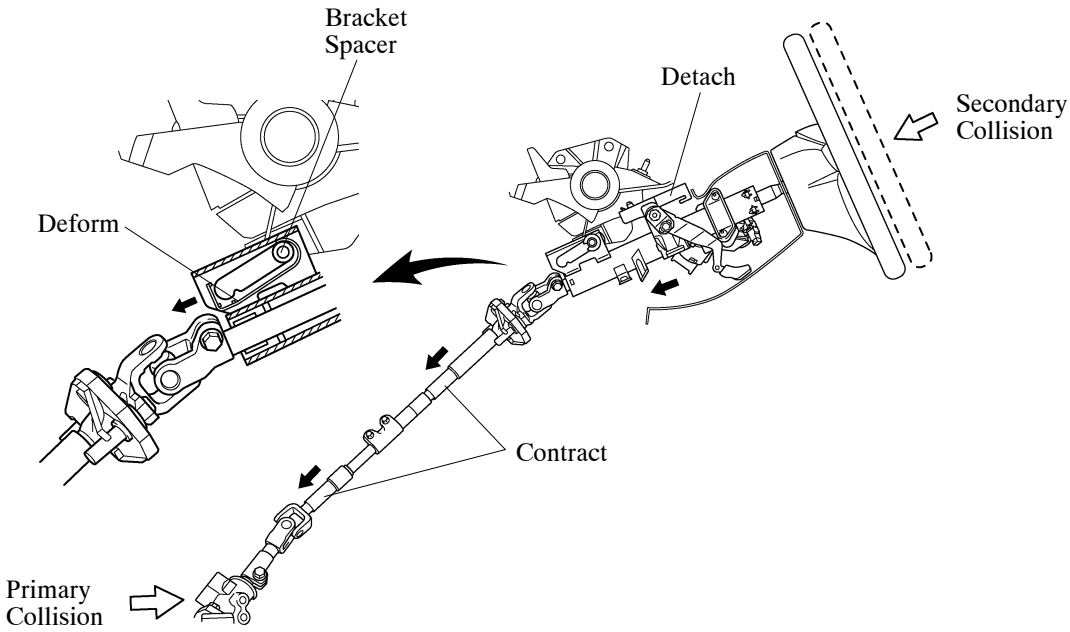
2. Operation

- When the steering gear box moves during a collision (primary collision), the intermediate shaft contracts, thus helping to reduce the amount that the steering column and the steering wheel protrude into the cabin.
- When an impact is transmitted to the steering wheel in a collision (secondary collision), the steering wheel and the driver airbag help to absorb the impact. In addition, the breakaway bracket and the lower bracket separate, causing the entire steering column to move forward.
  At this time, the energy absorbing plate becomes deformed and the intermediate shaft contracts to help absorb the impact of the secondary collision.

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Before Collision



After Collision