

ATV Middle Passenger – RED ALERT



What Happened:

A can-am side by side was slowly descending a steep track, the driver had taken his foot off the accelerator and was braking when the buggy gained speed, failed to take a corner at the foot of the slope, cleared a small creek and hit the far side bank. Apart from a few bumps and bruises no one was seriously hurt although there was the potential for this to be a very serious incident.

What was the core issue:

- Left hand drive ATV's.
- Unknowingly, the middle passenger's left foot had slipped across to the left and managed to apply pressure on the accelerator causing the vehicle to speed up and the operator to lose control.

What needs to improve:

- **ATV operators need to be aware that when carrying a third passenger there is the potential for the middle passenger's foot to interfere with pedals. *They need to make sure the middle passenger is also aware of this possibility.***
- When carrying unsecured loads in the front, there is also the potential for the load to move across and cause an issue with either the accelerator or brake pedals.

Possible changes:

- Avoid carrying a middle passenger if possible. Secure loads carried in the front so they cannot interfere with the pedals, e.g. smoko bags, rifles etc.
- Addition of a more robust guard to the right of the accelerator pedal.
- Warning stickers to be placed inside ATV to alert users of hazard.