

'elf 'n' safety matters!

Consenting adults of mature years living in a free society remember the time when 'health & safety' was not a torpid, cumbersome and lethargic bulwark, the product of fearful management and those in authority arising from the threat of litigation from those 'challenged' in every sense of the modern definition, but rather a matter of good old common-sense and judiciously applied carefulness.

That said, **moving armour - like the sea - demands utter respect at all times**. You can write all the risk assessments you like, but a piece of paper whether it is actually read and understood or is filed away in a ring binder isn't going to stop an accident or fatality occurring through carelessness or negligence.

Please be aware of the potential dangers of transporting passengers in the 'top-commander' position in turreted Mk 2-3 versions of the Ferret, particularly if the turret backplate is lowered in the horizontal position to form a seat. The backplate should be secured in place upright to form the rear wall of the turret, and the proper moulded turret backrest used instead to support any passenger.

If you take corners too fast, the Ferret will become top-heavy and will topple over. Recovering the vehicle will be the least of your problems, for it is more than likely that any passenger will be crushed or bisected by the vehicle or the top-hatch cover (the real purpose of which is to provide cover against incoming fire). Talk to anyone experienced with the Ferret in service, and these stories become apparent. [Here](#) is an RMP report, available on the internet, of a fatality in a Mk1 Ferret arising from excess speed. Surprisingly, it is dated December 1991 at the end of the service life of the Ferret when the potential dangers ought to have been known.

A very well-respected bastion of the military vehicle community, who kindly supports this website, has commented: "At shows it horrifies me to see people with wife/girlfriend proudly being displayed with the vehicle as it charges around. I think there've been two owners who have killed their passengers where the Ferret has toppled over doing this. Not certain whether permitted in service, but too great a risk I think for civilians".