

Simple safety for SSV users

When you think of a gamekeeper's vehicle, the first ones that come to mind are 4x4s and side by side vehicles (SSV). These are the cornerstone of any estate. However, what an SSV offers compared to other vehicles is increased versatility in terms of towing and hauling capacity and the capability to handle multiple terrains with ease, from steep inclines to boggy fields and tough moorland. These benefits have led to SSVs becoming the workhorse vehicles that are relied upon on a day-to-day basis.

With that in mind, always remember that the estate is a potentially dangerous work environment so it is important that, when using an SSV, safe riding is at the forefront of the user's mind when out in the field.

Here are some top tips when it comes to rider safety:

- Make sure that the load carried in the cargo box is secure, evenly balanced and does not exceed the carrying capacity of the SSV (check the manufacturer's recommendations).
- Always be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes peeled for any pedestrians, animals, obstructions or other vehicles.
- Inspect the SSV before use to ensure that it is in good working order.
- Always wear the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) such as a helmet, boots, long sleeve shirt and trousers when out riding.
- When working a new area, make sure you walk the route before riding through it. This will give you a better perspective of the dangers or obstacles that you could come across.
- You cannot predict the British weather; one minute it could be bright sunshine and the next it could be pouring with rain, so be aware of changes in ground conditions as these could affect the loads you are carrying or the attachments you are pulling.
- Always read the owner's manual.
- Make sure the doors are secured before driving.
- Always make sure the path behind is clear before reversing.
- Drive at an appropriate speed and turn smoothly to avoid overturning the vehicle
- To reduce the risk of bouncing around on the trails, riders and passengers should have a firm grip on the steering wheel and handgrips respectively.
- Take professional training from a certified training body*.

Can-Am provides utility users with innovative, economical, comfortable and versatile SSVs.

*Can-Am offers discounted courses with the purchase of a Can-Am SSV. Visit your [local Can-Am off-road dealer](#) to find out more.