

No job is more important.



Safety Alert

Nº.4 1999

Woman Scalped in Go-Karting Accident



A 20-year-old Gold Coast woman underwent microsurgery after being scalped when her hair became entangled in the axle of a go-kart she was driving. Large tufts of hair and sections of the woman's scalp were ripped from her head in the accident. She was taken to hospital and was in a satisfactory condition after undergoing microsurgery.

Contributing Factors

- An investigation into this accident revealed that:
- The woman had long hair which was not restrained by suitable headwear.

Recommendations

- Go-karts should have guards fitted over rotating components.
- Long hair and loose clothing should be restrained.
- Drivers should be supervised so that potential risks are identified before an accident occurs.
- Go-kart designers, manufacturers, suppliers and operators should ensure that go-karts are fitted with appropriate guards.
- Designers, manufacturers, suppliers and operators are required by law to ensure the safety of everyone in the workplace. Go-kart operators are also required to maintain go-karts in a safe condition.
- Employers and go-kart owners should be familiar with, and apply Australian Standard 3533.2 – *Amusement Rides and Devices Operation and Maintenance*



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