

BRAKE OVERRIDE

WHAT IS BRAKE OVERRIDE?

Brake override is a failsafe feature that brings your vehicle to a stop when it receives mixed signals or when something goes wrong with other electronics on the vehicle.

For instance, a common mixed signal occurs when both the brake and gas pedals are pushed down together. Brake override, a form of “smart” technology, recognizes that something abnormal is happening to the car. The safety system takes corrective action by overriding the accelerator, but not the brake.

Brake override has various names, such as “smart pedal” and “smart stop technology”, however, all systems operate in relatively the same manner.

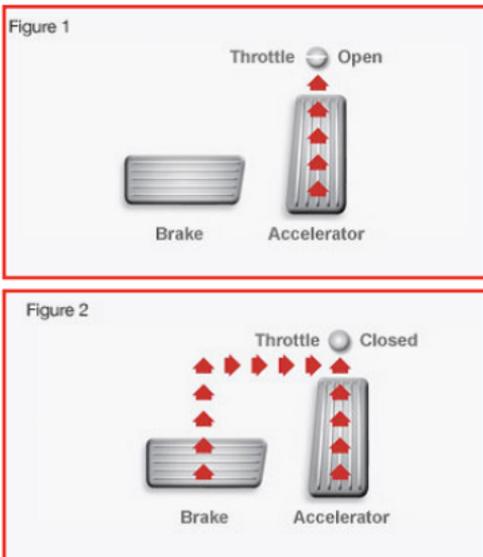
HOW DOES BRAKE OVERRIDE WORK?

An electronic control unit (ECU), a computer feature on various cars, controls brake override. Through sensors, the ECU receives information from different parts of the car and assesses this information for any unusual signals.

To illustrate, if the ECU receives commands from both the brake and the gas pedal sensors, it determines that something unusual is happening and it will activate the brake override if necessary.

Brake override operates differently depending on the system installed on your car. Some systems partially close the gas throttle and some reduce fuel flow to the engine, while hybrid vehicles reduce the electronic current driving the vehicle.

Your brain is your vehicle's most important safety feature.



MORE ABOUT BRAKE OVERRIDE

Brake override is designed to engage whenever it senses that your car is accelerating against your will. However, it does not help you to stop sooner or to maintain a safe speed. Unintended accelerations are uncontrolled so it is difficult to know how far or fast you will go before stopping.

Outside of possible electronic malfunctions, drivers can help prevent unintended accelerations by wearing proper footwear, ensuring there are no loose items on the car floor and by using only one foot for the gas and brake pedals.

Learn more about how different brake override systems monitor your vehicle by visiting www.brainonboard.ca.

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