

## Golf Cart Safety

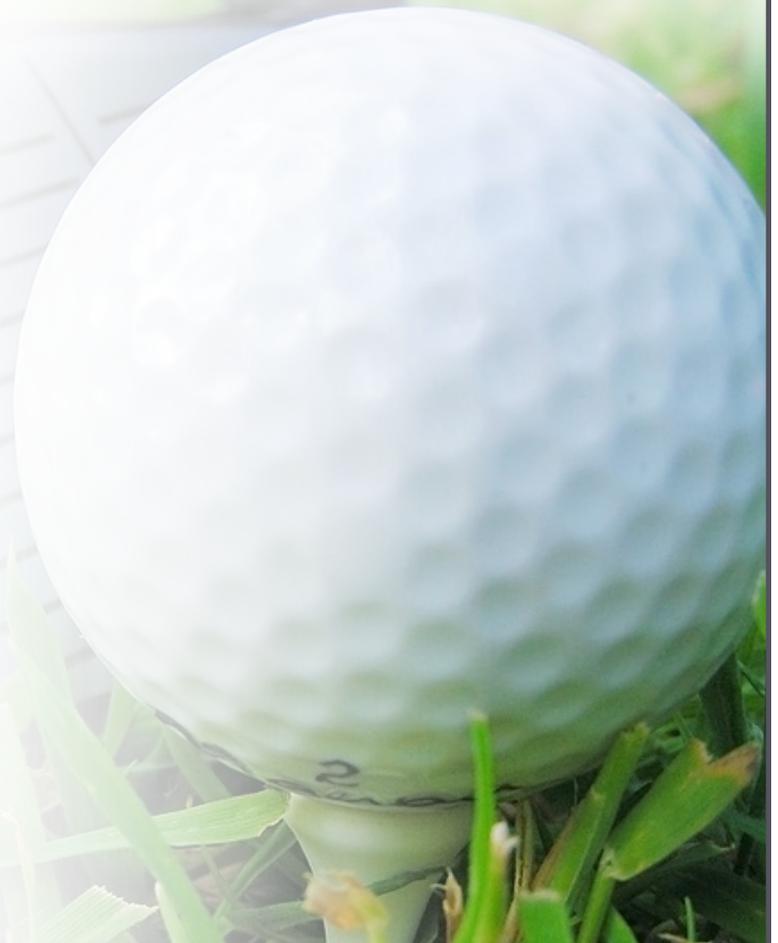
*Golf cart and similar utility vehicles pose a variety of risks, be sure to review safety procedures before operating.*

Golf carts and similar vehicles provide efficient means of transportation for groundskeepers and maintenance workers who move supplies, tools and equipment over long distances. Golf carts are involved in a number of accidents each year, resulting in personal injury, death, and property damage. To help mitigate the risks of golf cart use, employers should have written policies and procedures in place to manage utilization, maintain equipment, and ensure employees operate the carts safely.

### **Golf Cart Safety Procedures**

The following are common rules for operating and maintaining golf carts:

- Inspect vehicles prior to use, using a checklist for features such as tire inflation, punctures on tires, steering, gears and brakes.
- Take out any golf carts in need of repair or maintenance.
- Golf carts should be operated on cart paths or other paved surfaces. When on public streets observe all traffic laws.
- Pedestrians always have the right-of-way. When operating the cart on a sidewalk, pull off of the sidewalk or stop when approaching pedestrians.
- Most golf carts are designed to carry a driver and one passenger. A golf cart shouldn't be operated with more passengers than it is designed for.
- Drivers and passengers must remain seated with hands, arms and legs inside while the vehicle is moving.
- Towing is allowed on golf carts designed for it.
- Horseplay of any kind should result in disciplinary action.
- Carts must never be parked where they will block emergency equipment, emergency exit routes, doorways, intersections, or normal traffic flow.
- Report any accidents or damage to your supervisor immediately.



## Operator Training

All golf cart operators must be trained before vehicle usage. This training should include the proper procedures for operating and maintaining golf carts and completed in conjunction with the review of equipment operational manuals.

- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that operators have successfully completed golf cart training prior to driving the vehicle.
- Any employee who observes a golf cart operator driving unsafely must report the driver to management.

## Battery Recharge

When recharging golf cart batteries, the following safety rules should be observed:

- Only use approved chargers to recharge batteries.
- Do not smoke near the recharge station or any source of ignition.
- Pour baking soda on spilled battery acid before cleaning it up.
- Wash skin with cold water if exposed to battery acid.
- Disconnect all battery charger cords before cart use.

## Did You Know?

A golf cart should be operated at a speed equivalent to a well-paced walk, but no faster than 15 mph. The maximum speed of a golf cart depends upon the terrain over which it is being driven, the weather conditions, the total weight of the golf cart, and passengers and materials being carried.

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### SafetyConnection: Golf Cart Safety

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