



Considerations for the Safe Use of Golf Carts at Camp

Camps often utilize golf carts to move people, supplies, and equipment. Golf carts are involved in a number of accidents each year throughout the US, resulting in a variety of injuries and damages. All staff that operates golf carts should be trained before using the vehicles in order to help prevent accidents. Training should include the following information.

Controlling Use:

- Carts should only be used by authorized personnel
- Drivers must receive safety training prior to use of carts
- Drivers must hold a current driver's license for the state where Camp is located

Controls and Operation:

- Review starting and turning off carts
- Review steering, brake and accelerator controls
- Review use of parking brake
- Review proper tire inflation
- Review use of seat belts and any passenger restraints

Maintenance:

- Inspect each golf cart daily before use; if the golf cart is in need of repairs or maintenance, the vehicle should be taken out of service
- Report any damage or maintenance needs to a supervisor immediately

Operating Guidelines:

- Drivers and passengers must remain seated while the vehicle is moving
- Seat belts should be worn at all times
- Never exceed the number of available seats for the number of passengers
- Reduce speed when approaching pedestrians, who always have the right of way
- Reduce speed when turning or passing through narrow spaces such as bridges
- Do not park carts where they will block emergency access or exits
- The maximum speed of a golf cart depends upon the terrain, weather conditions, and the total weight of the golf cart, passengers and any equipment being carried
- A golf cart should be operated at a well-paced walk speed and no faster than 10 mph
- Carts should only be used on Camp property and on appropriate paths or roadways
- All passengers should keep hands, arms, legs and feet within the confines of the golf cart at all times when the cart is in motion
- Secure carts when not in use and remove keys when unattended
- Never back up without looking to see what is behind the cart
- Maintain adequate distance between vehicles and pedestrians when operating carts
- Golf carts do not provide protection from lightning. Seek appropriate shelter if lightning is present.