

Be Aware of Golf Cart Dangers

In the past few years, OSHA has investigated fatalities involving the unsafe use of golf carts and the fatality rate is increasing. Some of these fatal accidents were due to employees riding on the back of golf carts and being thrown from the cart after a sudden turn or traveling over a bump. Other fatalities resulted from employees being thrown from the passenger compartment of a cart, again after a sudden turn or traveling on rough ground.

Each year, roughly 13,000 golf cart-related accidents require emergency room visits and that number is increasing.

Employee Suffers Fracture in Golf

In the late afternoon, an employee was driving a golf cart when some paperwork fell down, and the employee stooped down to get it while still driving. When he retrieved the papers, he looked up and was blinded by the sun, which made him hit a cement pole.

Custodian Injured from Cart Electrical Cord

A custodian was working at a high school in the early evening hours when he was driving an electric golf cart around a site to empty trash receptacles. He had stopped the cart and was getting out, when he became entangled in the electrical cord of the cart's charger. The accelerator pedal of the cart was depressed somehow, and the cart began moving. The employee was thrown out of the cart.

The employee was transported to a hospital for treatment of fractures to his left tibia and fibula.

Power cord for charging the batteries of the cart should have been stored properly to prevent entanglement hazard.

Golf Cart Safety

Driving Rules

Prior to operating any golf cart/utility cart:

- Employee must receive training in safe operating procedures from immediate supervisor prior to operating a powered cart.
- Anyone operating a cart must possess a valid driver's license.
- Know and adhere to the State of California vehicle laws.
- A daily checklist should be performed by operator.

Right-of-way is to be rendered to all pedestrians.

- Golf-cart/utility carts are not toys. Racing, horseplay, and operation of a vehicle in an irresponsible or inappropriate manner are safety risks and are prohibited.

- All safety features must be kept in good working order.

Safe Operation Practices:

- All carts must be key operated, no automatic off/on switches will be allowed to prevent activation by **non approved drivers & students.**

- Never leave a golf cart unattended if the key is in the ignition.

- The speed limit for carts on district property is **5 mph.**

- Use due caution in crosswalks. Reduce speed when approaching pedestrians. **Remember,** pedestrians have the right-of-way.



Inspection & 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.

- Check tires for proper inflation, cuts, or punctures.
- Check that steering is normal.

- Check that forward and reverse gears are operational.
- Check brakes for proper operation.
- Check for any indication of battery fluid leaks such as wet spots under the vehicle.
- Do not recharge near an open flame or source of ignition.

- Only an approved battery charger should be used to recharge the batteries (designed to shut off automatically when the batteries are fully charged.)
- Wash skin thoroughly with cold water if skin is exposed

Students are not allowed to operate powered carts on district sites



FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT THE SAFETY OFFICE 858-627-7174