



GOALS

This safety session teaches employees:

- Not to overlook the hazards of golf carts
- Safe work practices for operating golf carts

Applicable Regulations: General Duty Clause Section 5 (b)



1. Golf carts aren't just for golf courses anymore. They are used in many workplaces.

- Maintenance and landscape workers use them to get around large sites.
- Airports, sports arenas, amusement parks, and other venues use them to transport VIPs and disabled persons.
- Employers with large worksites find them useful.

2. Golf carts look safe—but looks can be deceiving.

Most golf cart injuries occur when passengers, drivers, or pedestrians are:

- Ejected from the vehicle
- Involved in rollover accidents
- Struck by golf carts
- Injuries can be very serious, including broken bones, traumatic brain injury, and death.

3. Like all workplace vehicles, golf carts should be inspected before use.

Check:

- **Fluids.** Check under the vehicle for battery fluid leaks.
- **Tires.** Tires should be in good condition, properly inflated, and free from damage.
- **Controls.** All controls, including the accelerator, brakes, and steering should work properly.
- **Horn.** Give it a beep to make sure it works!

4. Like all workplace vehicles, golf carts should only be operated by authorized personnel. Always follow these safe operating rules:

- Make sure that the driver and all passengers remain seated while the vehicle is in gear. Ensure that seat belts are worn, if they are provided.
- Never transport more passengers than the cart has seats.
- Never operate a golf cart while under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any medication that can affect alertness.
- Do not tow loads unless the cart is designed for towing.
- Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Never leave the keys in an unattended cart.



- Never park a cart near flammable chemicals or open flames or in areas where it could block access to emergency equipment or building exits.

5. Know when to reduce your speed:

- On slopes
- When approaching turns
- While passing through doorways
- In bad weather or poor visibility conditions
- When pedestrians are in the area

6. Know what restrictions apply to your golf cart.

- Golf carts that can go faster than 20 miles per hour (mph), but that cannot exceed 25 mph (sometimes called neighborhood electric vehicles), are considered “low-speed vehicles” under federal law, and must be equipped with:
 - Headlamps
 - Stop lamps, turn signal lamps, and taillamps
 - Reflex reflectors
 - Parking brakes
 - Rearview mirrors
 - Windshields
 - Seat belts
 - Vehicle identification numbers
- Street-legal golf carts that can operate at speeds faster than 25 mph but not exceeding 35 mph (these are also called medium-speed electric vehicles) can operate on public roadways with posted speed limits of 35 mph or less.
- Street-legal golf carts operating on public roadways must obey all traffic laws.
- Golf carts that are not street-legal cannot be operated on public roadways, except while crossing from one side to another.
- Off road, all golf carts should be operated only at speeds of 15 mph or less.

DISCUSSION POINTS:



Golf carts are not cars, and they are not forklifts. They have different handling characteristics and operational requirements, and they should only be operated by trained personnel.

CONCLUSION:



Golf carts are handy for many things other than for golf. But, like any motorized vehicle, they can cause injury if they are not properly operated. If you drive a golf cart, make sure you know how to operate it safely.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:



Have your employees take the Golf Cart Safety quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their understanding of golf cart hazards and training requirements, and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



It's just a golf cart, so it's probably safe—right? Not necessarily. Even a golf cart can seriously injure someone who is struck by one, thrown from one, or in one when it rolls over. Here are the safety-related questions you should ask:

Is the golf cart safe to operate?

- *Have I checked the fluids?* Make sure the battery fluid isn't leaking.
- *Have I kicked the tires?* And have I made sure they're properly inflated and free of damage?
- *Have I tested the controls?* Will the cart go forward, backward, stop, and turn properly?
- *Have I beeped the horn?* Just to make sure it works, of course!

Do I know how to safely operate the golf cart?

- *Do I always* make sure that all passengers remain seated while the cart is in gear?
- *Do I always* ensure that all passengers buckle up, if possible?
- *Do I always* obey posted speed limits?
- *Do I always* shift the cart out of gear and remove the keys before leaving it unattended?
- *Do I always* yield the right-of-way to pedestrians?
- *Do I never* transport more passengers than the cart has seats?
- *Do I never* operate a golf cart if I'm under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or any medication that can affect my alertness?
- *Do I never* tow loads unless my cart is equipped to do so?
- *Do I never* park my cart near hazardous materials?
- *Do I never* park my cart where it could block access to emergency equipment or building exits?

Do I know when to go slow?

- *Do I always* operate the cart at less than 15 miles per hour (mph) when I'm off-road?
- *Do I always* slow down on slopes?
- *Do I always* slow down before a turn?
- *Do I always* slow down when passing through doorways?
- *Do I always* slow down in bad weather or poor visibility conditions?
- *Do I always* slow down when pedestrians are in the area?

Do I know what a low-speed vehicle requires?

- *If my vehicle* can go faster than 20 mph, but not faster than 35 mph, is it equipped with:
 - *Lights*, including headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, and reflex reflectors?
 - *Safety devices*, including parking brakes, rearview mirrors, and a windshield?
 - *Seat belts*?
 - *A vehicle identification number (VIN)*?



Seguridad en el carrito de golf

Es solo un carrito de golf, así que se supone que es seguro, ¿verdad? Pues no necesariamente. Incluso un carrito de golf puede ocasionar una lesión seria si una persona es golpeada por uno, lanzada desde uno o está dentro de uno y este se voltea. He aquí las preguntas relacionadas con la seguridad que usted debe tomar en cuenta:

¿Es seguro operar este carrito de golf?

- *¿Revisé los fluidos?* Asegúrese de que el líquido de la batería no esté filtrando.
- *¿Pateé las llantas?* ¿Y verifiqué que estén bien infladas y libres de daños?
- *¿Revisé los controles?* ¿El carrito avanzará, retrocederá, se detendrá y girará correctamente?
- *¿Toqué la bocina?* Solo para asegurarme de que funciona, ¡por supuesto!

¿Sé manejar de manera segura el carrito de golf?

- *¿Siempre* me aseguro de que los pasajeros permanezcan sentados mientras el carrito está en marcha?
- *¿Siempre* me aseguro de que todos los pasajeros se abrochen los cinturones, de ser posible?
- *¿Siempre* obedezco las señales de límites de velocidad?
- *¿Siempre* dejo el carrito fuera de marcha y quito las llaves antes de dejarlo desatendido?
- *¿Siempre* cedo el derecho de paso a los peatones?
- *¿Nunca* transporto más pasajeros que la cantidad de asientos que hay en el carrito?
- *¿Nunca* opero un carrito de golf si estoy bajo los efectos del alcohol, drogas ilegales, o cualquier otro medicamento que pudiera afectar mi estado de alerta?
- *¿Nunca* remolco cargas a menos que mi carrito esté equipado para hacerlo?
- *¿Nunca* estaciono mi carrito cerca de materiales peligrosos?
- *¿Nunca* estaciono mi carrito donde pueda bloquear el acceso al equipo de emergencia o a las salidas del edificio?

¿Sé cuándo disminuir la velocidad?

- *¿Siempre* opero el carrito a menos de 15 millas por hora (mph) cuando estoy fuera de la carretera?
- *¿Siempre* disminuyo la velocidad en las pendientes?
- *¿Siempre* disminuyo la velocidad cuando voy a girar?
- *¿Siempre* disminuyo la velocidad cuando paso por las entradas?
- *¿Siempre* disminuyo la velocidad en condiciones de mal tiempo o de mala visibilidad?
- *¿Siempre* disminuyo la velocidad cuando hay peatones en el camino?

¿Sé lo que requiere un vehículo de baja velocidad?

- *Si mi vehículo puede ir a más de 20 mph, pero no a más de 35 mph, está equipado con:*
 - *¿Luces*, incluidos los faros, luces de freno, luces direccionales, luces traseras, y reflectantes
 - *¿Dispositivos de seguridad*, incluidos los frenos de mano, espejos retrovisores y un parabrisas?
 - *¿Cinturones de seguridad?*
 - *¿Un Número de Identificación del Vehículo (VIN)?*